



THE GOLDEN AGE

BATMAN

VOLUME FOUR



BATMAN

THE GOLDEN AGE VOL. 4

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By special arrangement with the JERRY SIEGEL family

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BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE VOL. 4

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DETECTIVE COMICS #66
 August 1942
 "The Crimes of Two-Face!"
 Cover art by **JERRY ROBINSON**
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BATMAN #12
 August-September 1942
 Cover art by **JERRY ROBINSON**

"Brothers in Crime!"
 Writer: **DON CAMERON**
 Artist: **JERRY ROBINSON**

"The Wizard of Worlds!"
 Inkers: **JERRY ROBINSON** and **GEORGE ROUSSOS**

"They Thrill to Conquer!"
 Artist: **JACK BURKLEY**

"Around the Clock with the Batman!"
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 October 1942
 "The Man Who Led A Double Life!"
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 October-November 1942

"The Batman Plays A Lone Hand!"
 Inkers: **JERRY ROBINSON** and **GEORGE ROUSSOS**

"Comedy of Terrors!"
 Writer: **JACK SCHIFF**
 Inkers: **JERRY ROBINSON** and **GEORGE ROUSSOS**

"The Story of the Seventeen Stones!"
 Artist: **JACK BURKLEY**

"Destination Unknown!"
 Writer: **DON CAMERON**
 Inkers: **JERRY ROBINSON** and **GEORGE ROUSSOS**
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WORLD'S FINEST #1
 Fall 1942
 "The North Pole Crimes!"
 Cover art by **JACK BURKLEY**
 72

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 November 1942
 "The Rattlesnake's Hoax!"
 Writer: **JOSEPH GREENE**
 167

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 September 1942
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 December 1942
 "The Man Who Could Read Minds!"
 Writer: **DON CAMERON**
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BATMAN #14
December 1942-January 1943
Cover art by JERRY ROBINSON

"The Case Batman Failed to Solve!!!"
Writer: DON CAMERON
Artist: JERRY ROBINSON

"Prescription For Happiness!"
Writer: DON CAMERON

"Swastika Over The White House!"
Writer: DON CAMERON

Penciller: JACK BURNLEY
Inkers: JACK BURNLEY and RAY BURNLEY

"Bargains in Banditry!"
Writer: DON CAMERON
Penciller: JACK BURNLEY
Inkers: JACK BURNLEY and RAY BURNLEY

DETECTIVE COMICS #71
January 1943
"A Crime a Day!"
248

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #8
Winter 1943
"Brothers in Law"
Cover art by JACK BURNLEY
Writer: JACK SCHIFF
Penciller: JACK BURNLEY
Inker: RAY BURNLEY

DETECTIVE COMICS #72
February 1943
"License For Larceny"
Cover art by JERRY ROBINSON
Writer: JOE SAMACHSON

BATMAN #15
February-March 1943
Cover art by JACK BURNLEY

"Your Face Is Your Fortune!"
Writer: JACK SCHIFF

"The Boy Who Wanted To Be Robin!"
Writer: DON CAMERON
Penciller: JACK BURNLEY
Inkers: JACK BURNLEY and RAY BURNLEY

"The Two Futures"
Writer: DON CAMERON
Penciller: JACK BURNLEY
Inkers: JACK BURNLEY and RAY BURNLEY

"The Loneliest Men in the World"
Writer: DON CAMERON
290

DETECTIVE COMICS #73
March 1943
"The Scarecrow Returns"
Writer: DON CAMERON
343

DETECTIVE COMICS #74
April 1943
"Tweedledum and Tweedledee!"
Writer: DON CAMERON
357

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #9
Spring 1943
"Crime of the Month"
Cover art by JACK BURNLEY
Penciller: JERRY ROBINSON
Inker: GEORGE ROUSSOS

* These stories were originally untitled and are titled here for reader convenience.

Until the 1970s, it was not common practice in the comic book industry to credit all stories. In the preparation of this collection, we have used our best efforts to review any surviving records and consult any available databases and knowledgeable parties. We regret the innate limitations of this process and any missing or misassigned attributions that may occur.



No.66

MEET "TWO-FACE"



IND

Detective COMICS

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

AUG.



BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

HAVE YOU EVER TOSSED A COIN TO DECIDE SOMETHING... SETTLE A PROBLEM ABOUT WHICH YOU COULDN'T MAKE UP YOUR MIND? REMEMBER HOW EAGERLY YOU WATCHED TO SEE WHICH SIDE WON... HEADS OR TAILS? OF COURSE YOU WOULDN'T STAKE A LIFE ON THE FLIP OF A COIN... BUT HOW ABOUT A MAN WHO STAKED HIS SOUL, HIS VERY ACTIONS ON THE SPINNING OF A SILVER COIN?... **BECAUSE HE WAS LIKE THAT COIN ITSELF!** HE, TOO, HAD TWO SIDES, TWO SIDES AS DISTINCT AS NIGHT AND DAY... AS GOOD AND EVIL! MEET THE MOST BIZARRE CRIMINAL OF ALL TIME... A TWENTIETH CENTURY JEKYLL-HYDE... IN...
"THE CRIMES OF TWO-FACE!"



GOTHAM CITY... AND UP ITS COURT-HOUSE STEPS WALKS HANDSOME HARVEY KENT, DISTRICT ATTORNEY, WITH HIS FIANCEE...

HERE COMES "APOLLO" KENT NOW!

POSE THAT FAMOUS PROFILE, D.A.

CUT IT, BOYS... I'M BLUSHING!



BOB
KANE

PRESENTLY... AND THE HANDSOME D.A. FIRES THE OPENING GUN IN THE CASE OF THE STATE VS. "BOSS" MORONI.



YOUR HONOR, I CALL THE STATE'S FIRST WITNESS...THE BATMAN!

KENT SURE ISN'T WASTING ANY TIME ON MORONI, IS HE?

AS THE RICH, STRONG VOICE OF THE CRIME-FIGHTER RECOUNTS A TALE OF MURDER...



...WE HAD A FIGHT AND MORONI GOT AWAY...BUT HE IS THE MAN WHO SHOT "BOOKIE" BENSON!

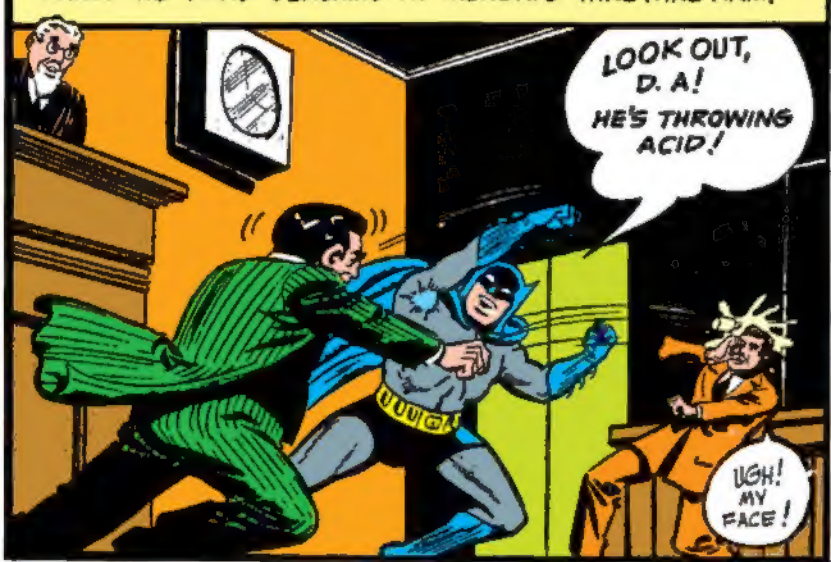
HE'S LYIN'!... HE'S LYIN', I TELL YA!

HERE'S THE PROOF... FOUND ON THE SCENE OF THE CRIME. MORONI'S LUCKY PIECE... A TWO-HEADED SILVER DOLLAR... WITH HIS FINGERPRINTS ON IT!



OKAY, PRETTY BOY, I'LL FIX YOU!

A BLUE BLUR OF MOTION, THE BATMAN DIVES FORWARD, HIS HAND GLASHING AT MORONI'S THROWING ARM!



LOOK OUT, D.A! HE'S THROWING ACID!

UGH! MY FACE!

PANDEMONIUM BREAKS LOOSE! A DOCTOR HURRIES TO THE STRICKEN D.A....



IT WAS VITRIOL, WASN'T IT, DOCTOR?

YES...A CONCENTRATED SOLUTION, TOO! LUCKY FOR KENT YOUR HAND DEFLECTED IT SO IT ONLY STRUCK ONE SIDE OF HIS FACE!

MY POOR DARLING!

TIME HEALS ALL WOUNDS... AND ONE MONTH LATER...



WELL, TODAY WE TAKE THE BANDAGES OFF!

HAND ME A MIRROR, BATMAN! GOSH! I'M WORRIED STIFF, WONDERING WHAT MY FACE WILL LOOK LIKE!

THE BANDAGES REMOVED, KENT SEES HIS FACE FOR THE FIRST TIME... AND WITH HORROR-STRICKEN EYES!



MY FACE! THE ACID HAS LEFT ONE SIDE SCARRED AND HIDEOUS!

YOU'RE THINKING OF PLASTIC SURGERY, I KNOW... BUT I'M AFRAID ONLY A MIRACLE COULD...



I KNOW ONE MAN WHO CAN PERFORM THAT MIRACLE...DR. EKHART, THE EUROPEAN SPECIALIST!

I HOPE SO... OH, MY FACE... MY FACE!



LATER THAT NIGHT... TORMENTED EYES
PEER AT A HIDEOUS REFLECTION...



WHO... WHAT AM I?
I'M NOT A MAN! I'M
HALF A MAN... BEAUTY
AND BEAST... GOOD AND
EVIL! I'M A LIVING
JEKYLL AND HYDE!

THOSE SAME BROODING
EYES FLAME WITH HATRED
AT A FAMILIAR OBJECT...



YOU... YOU CAUSED ALL
MY TROUBLE! MORONI'S LUCKY
TWO-HEADED SILVER DOLLAR!
TWO HEADS...
TWO FACES...
CLEAN AND
SHINY...

SNATCHING UP A SCALPEL,
KENT HACKS AND SLASHES
INSANELY AT ONE FACE OF THE
COIN!



TWO SIDES...
CLEAN... HAND-
SOME LIKE MINE
ONCE WERE! NOW
ONE IS
SCARRED...
UGLY LIKE
MINE!

THERE! I'M ALL ALONE
NOW... SHUNNED... LIKE
A SHAMEFUL THING... A
CRIMINAL! WOULDN'T TAKE
MUCH TO MAKE ME ONE NOW...
A TRICK OF FATE PERHAPS...
A FLIP OF A COIN...



AND WHY NOT...
AND WITH THE VERY
COIN RESPONSIBLE
FOR MY TROUBLE! IF
THE GOOD SIDE WINS...
I'LL WAIT TILL DR.
EKHART IS FREE! THE
SCARRED SIDE... AND I
ENTER A LIFE OF
CRIME!



A COIN SPINS HIGH... DROPS INTO
A HAND...

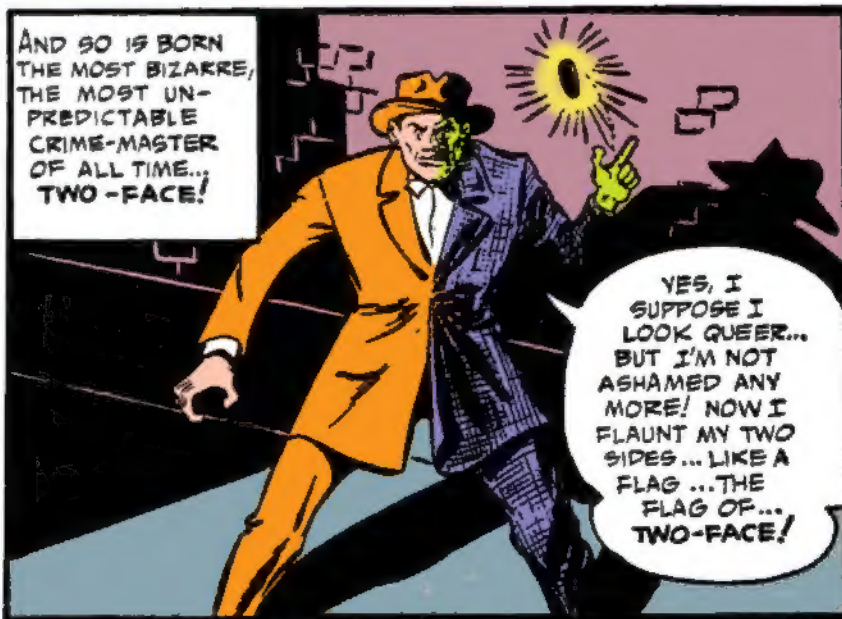


AND IN THAT PALM IS HELD A MAN'S FATE!

CRIME WINS!
FROM NOW ON I
DECIDE EVERYTHING ON
A FLIP OF A COIN... ON
ITS TWO FACES THAT
SYMBOLIZE MINE...
BEAUTIFUL AND
UGLY... GOOD
AND BAD... HEE
HEE!



AND SO IS BORN
THE MOST BIZARRE,
THE MOST UN-
PREDICTABLE
CRIME-MASTER
OF ALL TIME...
TWO-FACE!



YES, I
SUPPOSE I
LOOK QUEER...
BUT I'M NOT
ASHAMED ANY
MORE! NOW I
FLAUNT MY TWO
SIDES... LIKE A
FLAG... THE
FLAG OF...
TWO-FACE!

THE TIME...ONE MONTH LATER! THE PLACE...A WEIRD ROOM WHERE BEAUTY AND UGLINESS SIT SIDE BY SIDE...FOR THIS IS THE SECRET SANCTUM OF...TWO-FACE!



I'VE RESIGNED AS DISTRICT ATTORNEY! NOW, I'M GOING TO MAKE MY KNOWLEDGE OF CRIME BEAR FRUIT!

A COIN IS FLIPPED! THE SCARRED SIDE COMES UP!...AND THAT DAY TWO-FACE AND HIS HIRELINGS INVADE A BANK FOR ILLICIT GAIN!



AGAIN THE COIN TWIRLS...THE GOOD SIDE WINS...AND THAT NIGHT TWO-FACE SNATCHES A RIVAL GANGSTER'S LOOT...AND GIVES IT TO A CHARITY HOME!



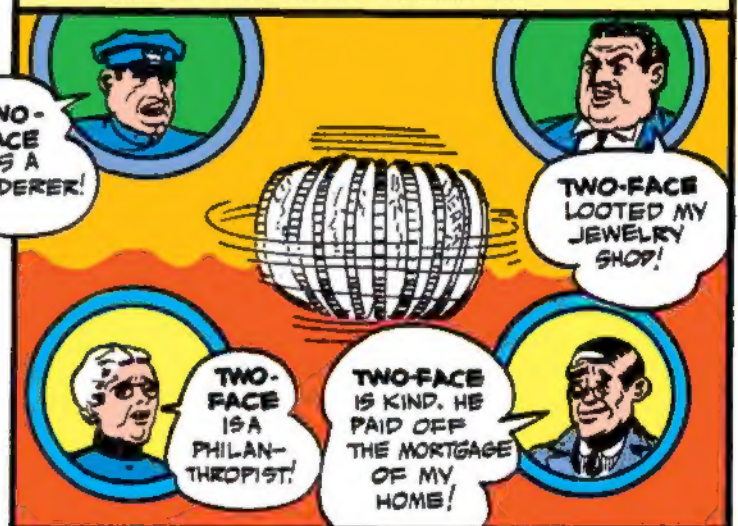
HERE! BUY THE KIDS SOME NEW CLOTHES!

GOTHAM CITY ORPHAN

WHA...?

TWO-FACE IS A MURDERER!

IN THE DAYS TO FOLLOW, POLICE AND POPULACE ARE CONFUSED IN OPINIONS OF TWO-FACE BECAUSE OF HIS TWO-SIDED ESCAPADES!



TWO-FACE LOOTED MY JEWELRY SHOP!

TWO-FACE IS A PHILANTHROPIST!

TWO-FACE IS KIND. HE PAID OFF THE MORTGAGE OF MY HOME!

EVEN TWO-FACE'S UNDERLINGS WANT AN EXPLANATION!



BUT, BOSS, WHY DO YOU FLIP THE COIN BEFORE WE PULL EACH JOB?

THE COIN'S TWO FACES SYMBOLIZE MY TWO SIDES... GOOD OR EVIL... ON THEM DEPENDS OUR NEXT MOVE! WATCH!

THE UGLY SIDE WINS! EVIL TRIUMPHS OVER GOOD! HA! HA! OUR NEXT JOB... WILL BE THE BROWN BOND COMPANY MESSENGER!

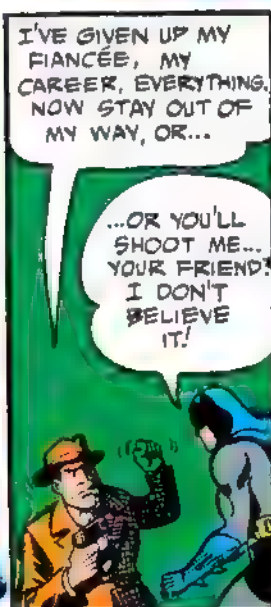
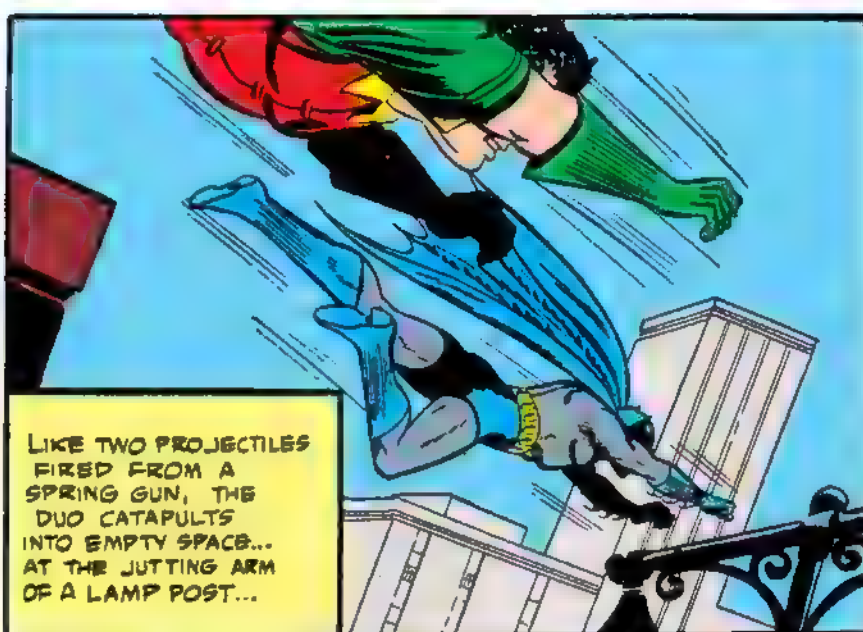
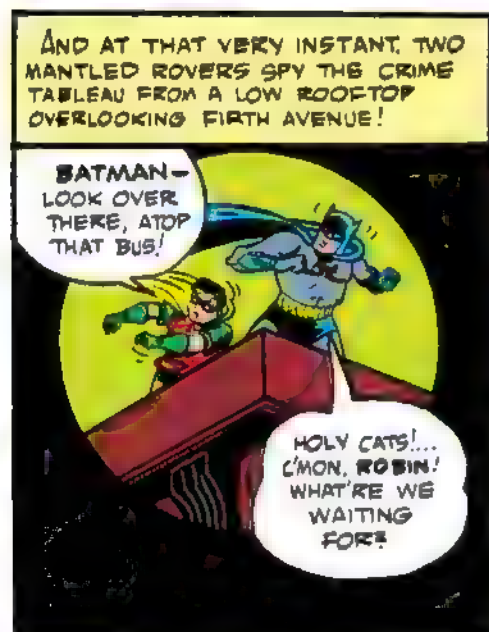
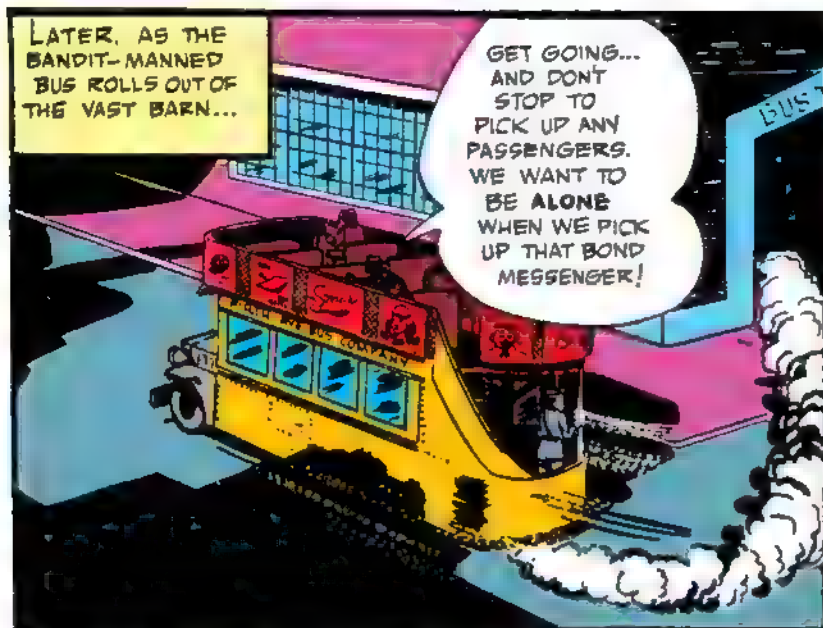
BOY, THAT GUY CARRIES OVER TWENTY GRAND EVERY TIME HE HOPS THE FIFTH AVENUE BUS 9 O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING!

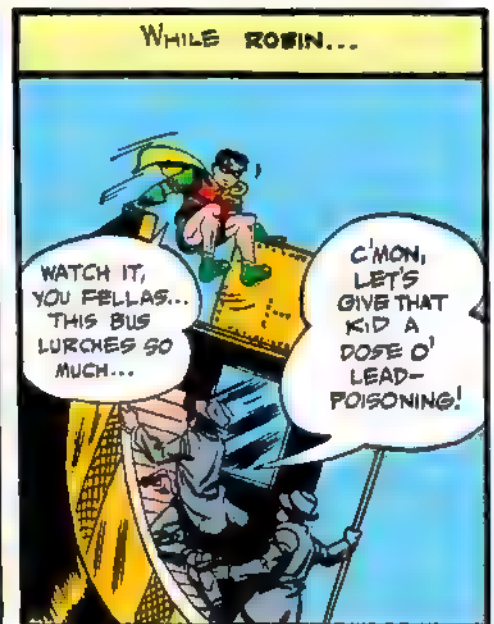
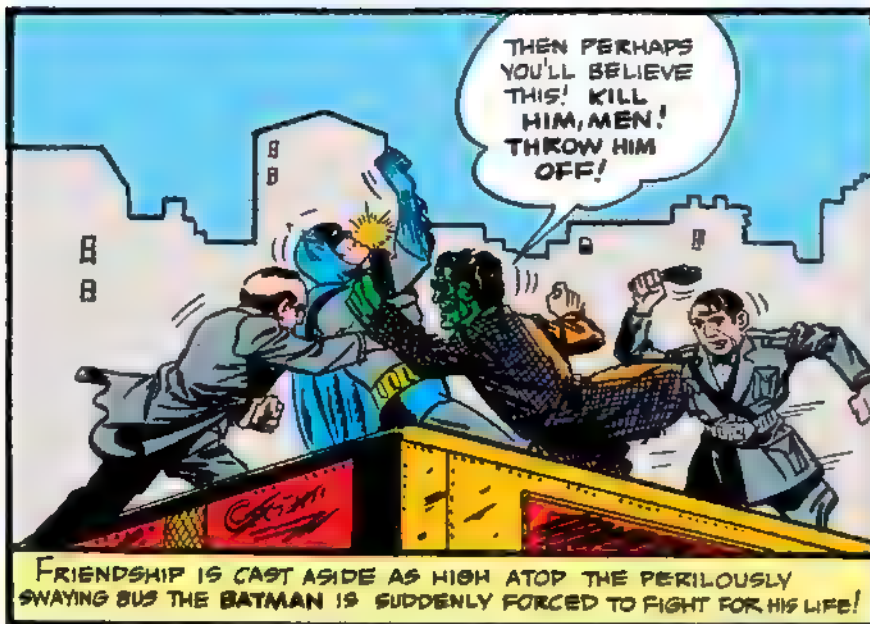
THE NEXT MORNING...CRIME STRIKES IN THE BUS BARN!

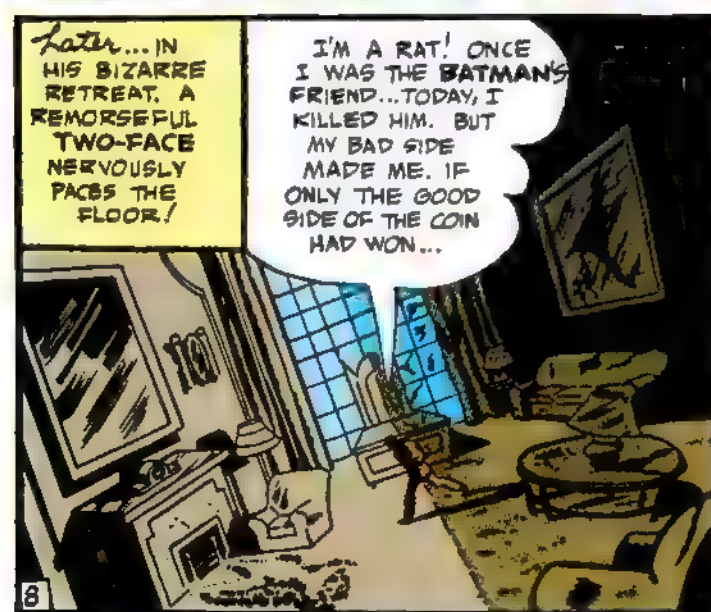
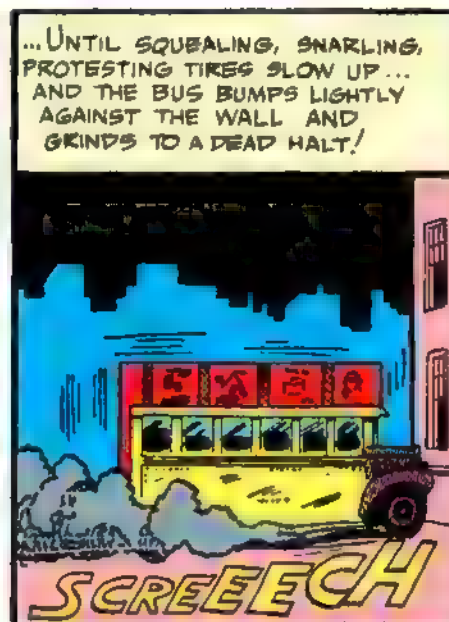
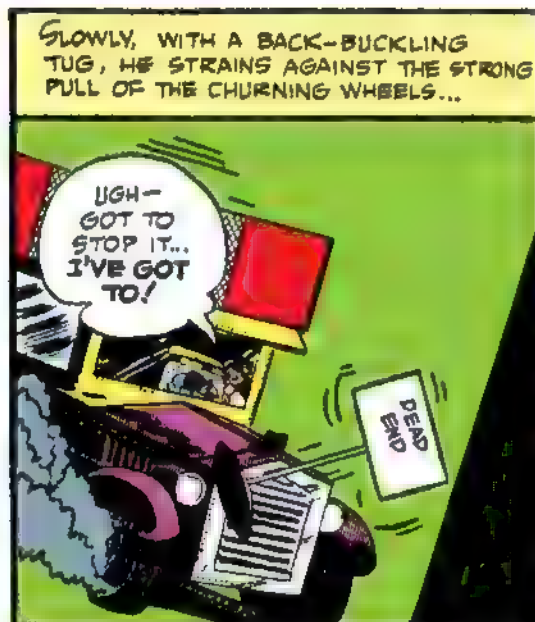
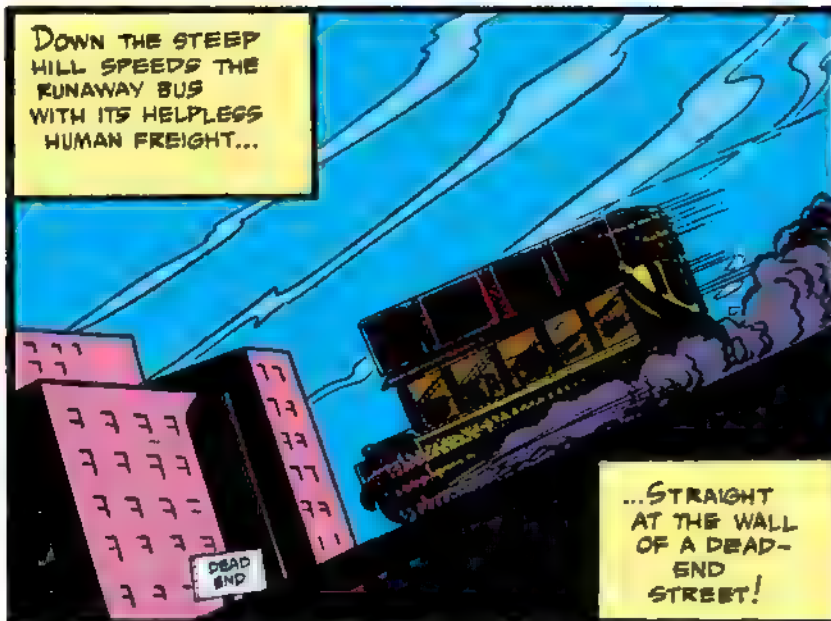


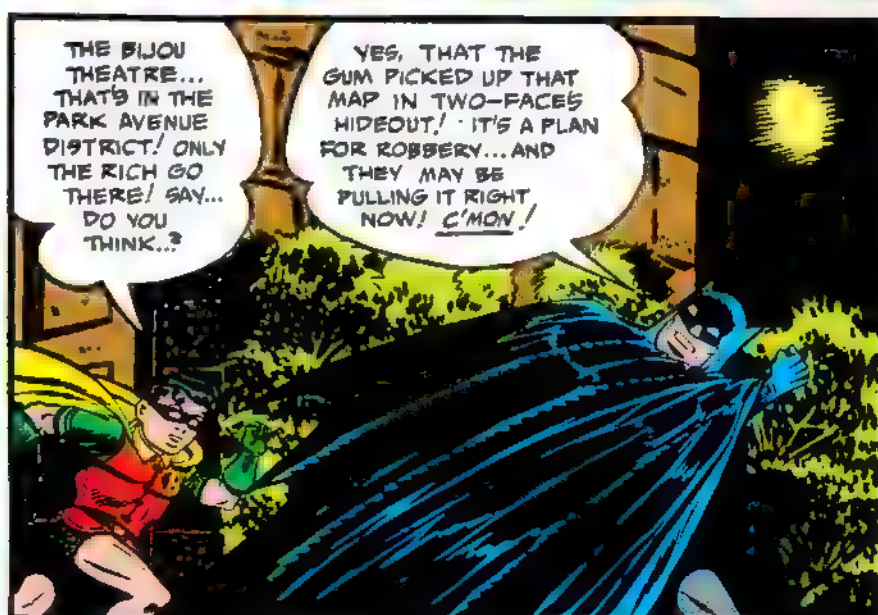
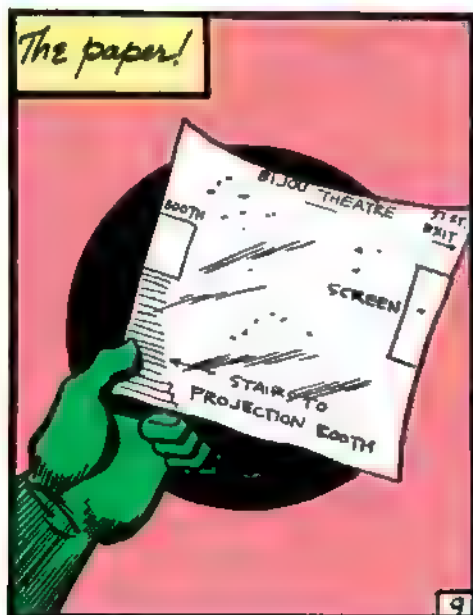
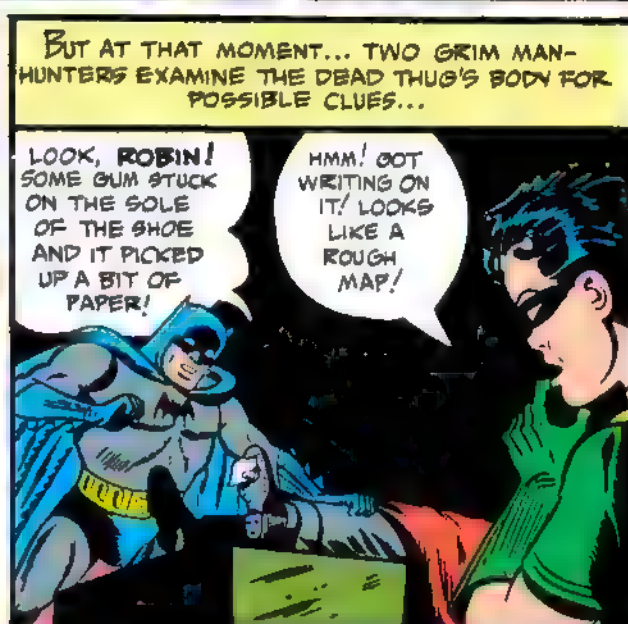
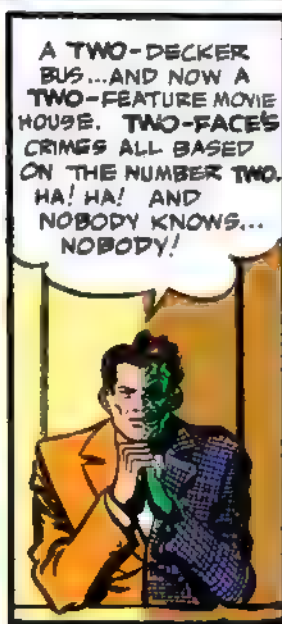
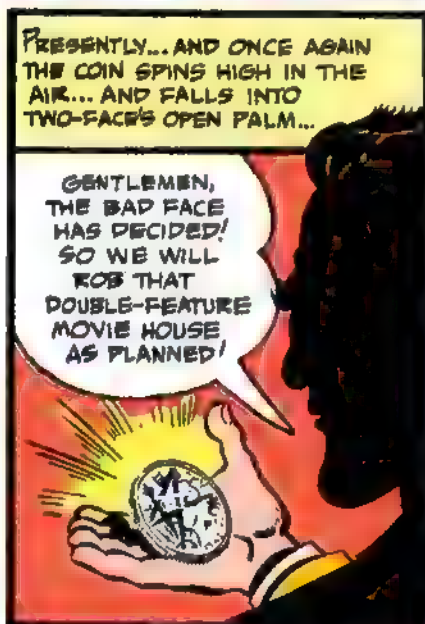
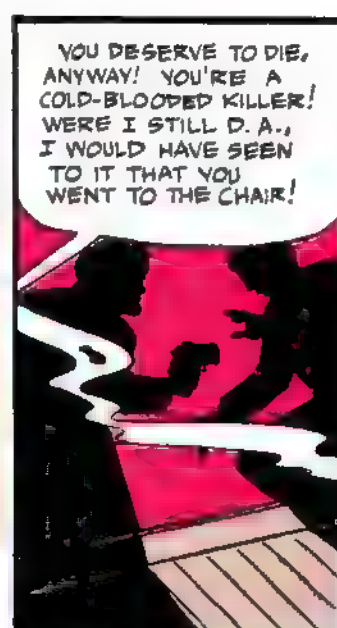
HURRY! PUT ON THE UNIFORMS OF THAT DRIVER AND FAREMAN. THE BOYS AND I WILL GET ON AND ACT AS PASSENGERS!

ACME BUS CO.





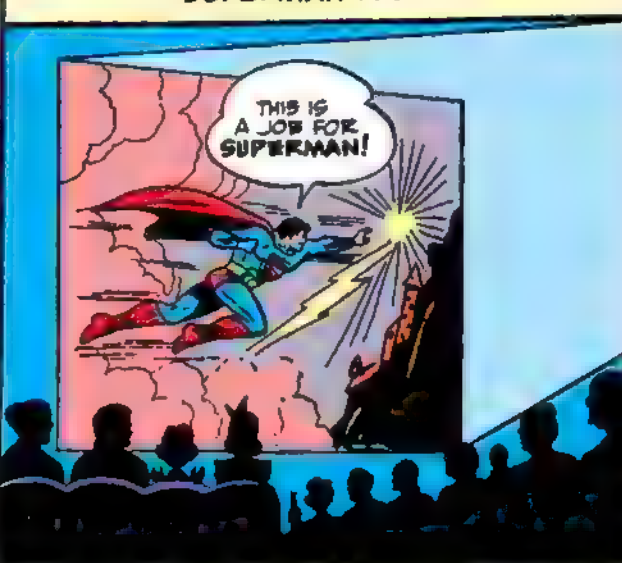




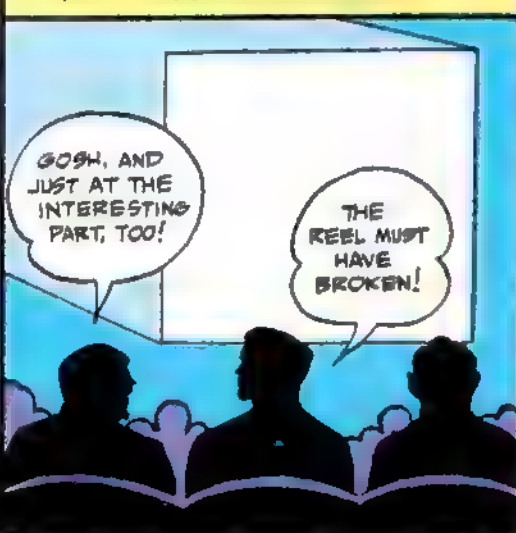
THE BIJOU
THEATRE...
HAVEN OF THE
"CARRIAGE"
TRADE...



INSIDE, THE AUDIENCE THRILLS TO THE LATEST
"SUPERMAN"...



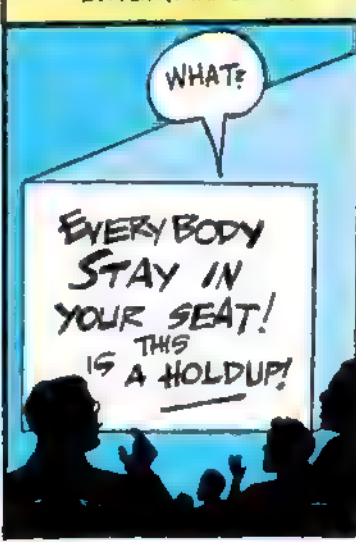
Suddenly... A COMMON THEATRE
OCCURRENCE...THE FILM WAVERS, FADES,
AND THE SCREEN GOES BLANK!



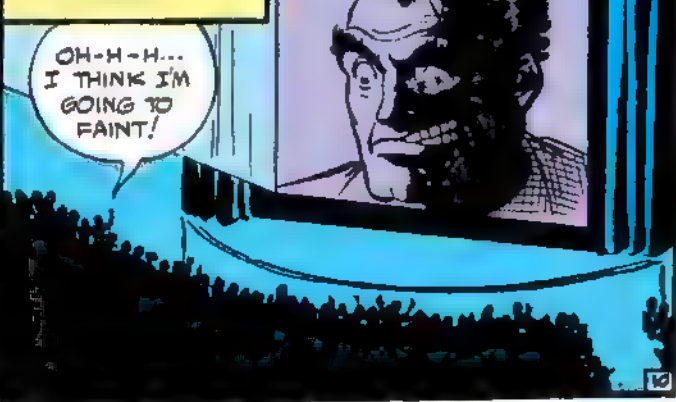
THE AUDIENCE WAITS, AND AS
THEY USUALLY DO, RESTLESS
VIEWERS CLAP THEIR HANDS TO
SPEED THE PROJECTIONIST!



Abruptly...SOMETHING FLASHES
ON THE SCREEN ... BUT NOT
ENTERTAINMENT...



THEN... A TERRIBLE
FACE IS MAGNIFIED
ON THE SCREEN-
A FACE MORE
FRIGHTENING THAN
THE MOST HORRIBLE
MOVIE VILLAIN IN
MAKEUP.



WHILE IN THE PROJECTION ROOM...

THE BOSS SHOULD'VE GOT A JOB IN HOLLYWOOD! AIN'T HE SOME ACTOR?

YEAH, SMART, TOO! IMAGINE HIM TAKIN' OUT THE REGULAR FILM AND SUBSTITUTIN' ONE WITH HIM, SPEAKIN' HAW!

THEN A LITHE FIGURE CHARGES IN... ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER...

OKAY, CHUM! HAVE A KNUCKLE LULLABY!

IT'S THAT KID!

HAVE TO MAKE THIS SHORT AND SWEET, PAL! NO TIME TO PLAY WITH YOU!

BATMAN WILL BE NEEDING A LITTLE LIGHT TO SHOW WHERE HE'S GOING!

IT'S A GIANT BAT!

NOT A BAT... BUT THE BATMAN!

AN INSTANT LATER, THE DAZZLING BEAM SPOTLIGHTS A CAPED SHAPE WINGING OVER THE HEADS OF THE AUDIENCE!

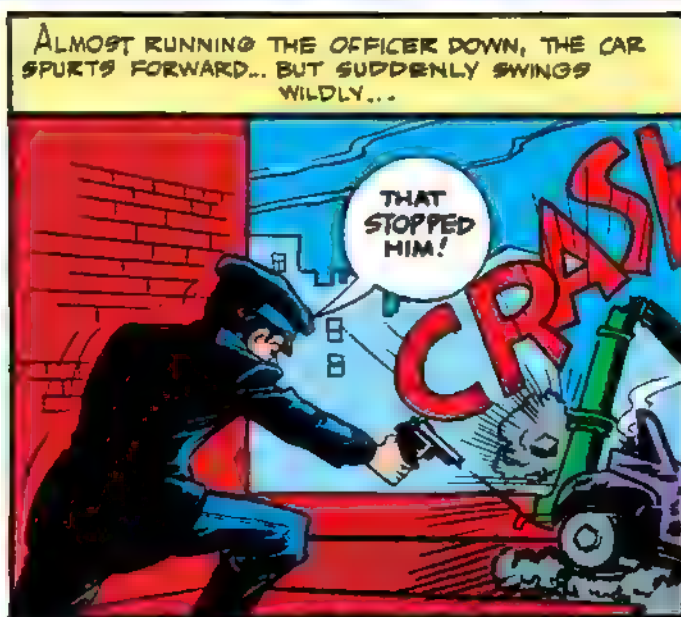
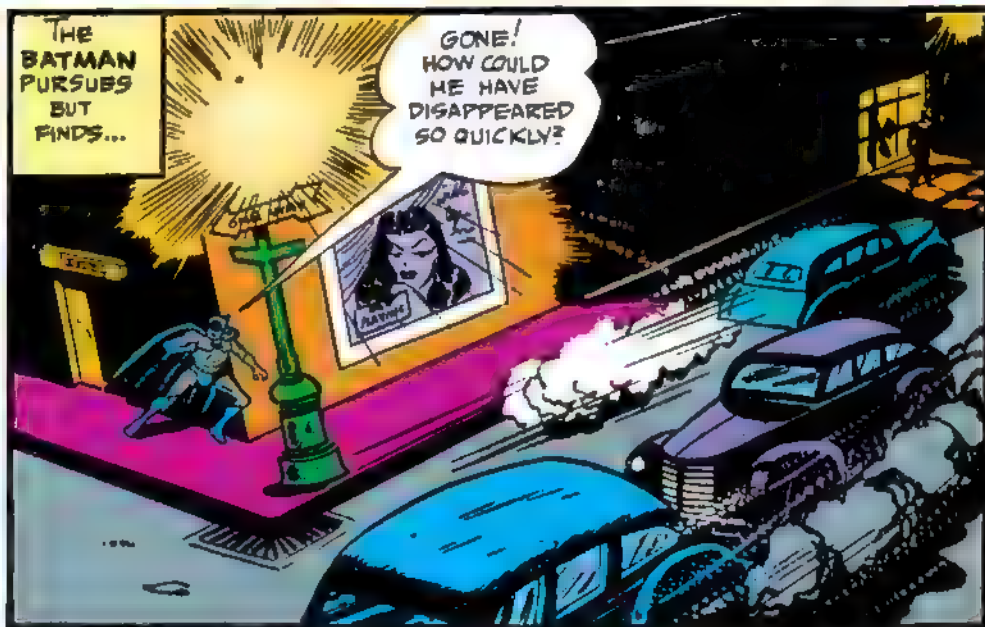
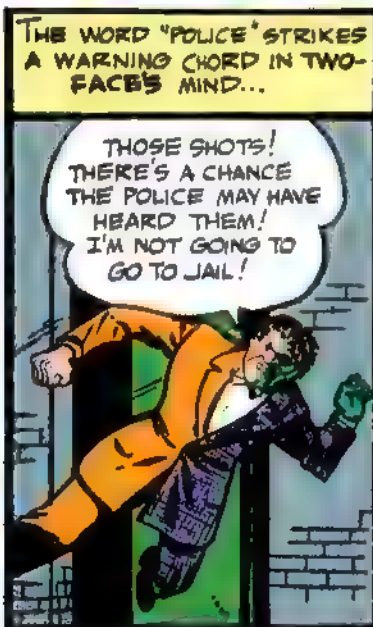
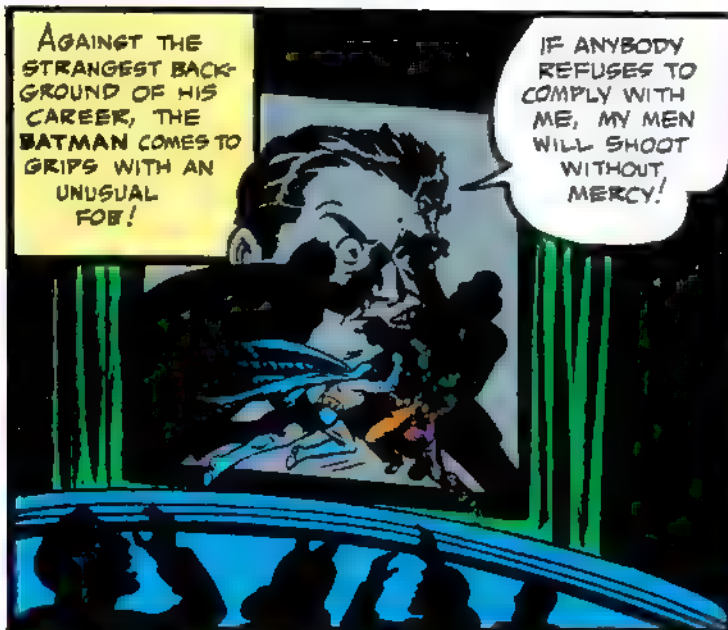
A HUMAN JUGGERNAUT, HE SLAMS FULL-TILT INTO MACHINE-GUN MAN-NING THUGS!

GREETINGS, GENTS... I'VE DECIDED TO BECOME PART OF THE CAST IN THIS MELODRAMA!

AND WHILE THE SCREEN IMAGE OF TWO-FACE CONTINUES TO SPEAK ITS MECHANICAL DIALOGUE, THE ACTOR HIMSELF MAKES A DRAMATIC PERSONAL APPEARANCE!

GIVE UP YOUR VALUABLES WITHOUT PROTEST, PLEASE!

I SEE I DIDN'T KILL YOU AFTER ALL, BATMAN, BUT I CAN MAKE SURE OF IT NOW!



SOME TIME LATER, AS TWO-FACE STEPS CONFIDENTLY INTO HIS LAIR...

AT LAST!
SAFE AT
HOME!

NOT
QUITE!

BATMAN!
HOW...?

VERY SIMPLE!
WHEN THE POLICE-
MAN HIT YOUR
TIRE, I WAS
ATTRACTED BY THE
SHOT...SPOTTED YOU,
AND TRAILED YOU
HERE!

YOU WOULD HAVE
MADE THE PERFECT
GETAWAY...IF YOU
HADN'T MADE
THE MISTAKE
OF DRIVING
DOWN A ONE-
WAY STREET
THE WRONG WAY!
THAT'S WHY THE
COP TRIED TO STOP
YOU...NOT BECAUSE
HE THOUGHT YOU
WERE A CROOK!

HA! HOW IRON-
ICAL THAT I,
WHO PLANNED MY
CRIME CAREER ON
THE NUMBER TWO,
SHOULD BE TRIPPED
UP BY A ONE WAY
STREET!

WAIT!
YOU'RE
NOT
TAKING ME
IN! I'LL
KILL YOU
FIRST!

GO AHEAD! SHOOT...YOU
FOOL! KENT, BE SMART!
GIVE YOURSELF UP!
THE COURT REMEMBERS
YOUR FINE RECORD AS A
D.A.! THEY'LL KNOW THIS
IS ONLY TEMPORARY
INSANITY INDUCED BY
YOUR TERRIBLE
MISFORTUNE!

I'LL EVEN SPEAK
FOR YOU! YOU'LL GET
A LIGHT SENTENCE!
BY THE TIME YOUR
TERM IS UP, PERHAPS
DR. EKHART WILL BE
FREE. YOU'LL GET
YOUR FACE FIXED!
YOU CAN START
YOUR LIFE ALL OVER
AGAIN. WHAT DO YOU
SAY?

IT'S WHAT THE COIN
SAYS! IT DECIDES
EVERYTHING FOR ME! IF
THE SCARRED SIDE
COMES UP... I KILL
YOU AND CONTINUE
A CAREER OF CRIME, AND
IF THE GOOD SIDE
COMES... I GO
WITH YOU!

A QUICK FLIP...
AND THE
COIN SPINS
HIGH INTO
THE AIR!

DOWN IT
DROPS LIKE
A SHINING
SUN... HITS
THE FLOOR!...

...ROLLS OVER
THE FLOOR-
BOARDS...
HITS A CRACK,
AND...

THE BATMAN WAITS ON THE GOOD
SIDE OF THE ROOM... TWO-FACE
ON THE BAD...

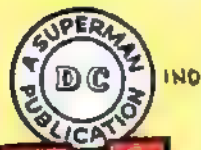
WELL...STANDING
UP. LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL
HAVE TO FLIP OVER
AGAIN!

NO, BATMAN!...I TOSS
ONCE AGAINST
CHANCE! AND
SINCE I CAN'T DE-
CIDE FOR MYSELF, IT'S
UP TO FATE TO
DECIDE WHAT
TO DO WITH
MY LIFE
NOW!

A MAN'S WHOLE
BEING AND
FUTURE RESTS
IN FATE'S HAND!
WHICH WAY WILL
SHE TOSS HIM...
TO GOOD...OR
TO EVIL?
THE ANSWER
TO THIS AMAZING
RIDDLE OF
TWO-FACE
WILL BE FOUND
IN THE OCTOBER
ISSUE OF
DETECTIVE COMICS.

... AND
STANDS ON
ITS EDGE!

No.12



BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

AUG.
SEPT.

WAR
SAVINGS BONDS
AND STAMPS
KEEP 'EM
ROLLING!



ANNIVERSARY
ISSUE

BATMAN

WITH ROBIN

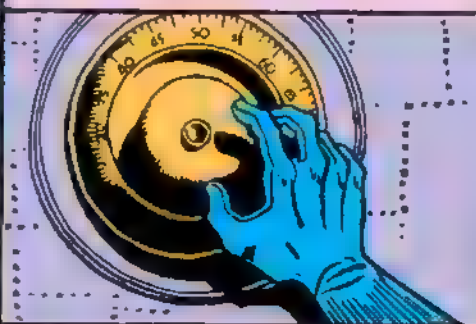
SYMBOL OF THE BATMAN'S VICTORIES OVER CRIME IS HIS VAST HALL OF TROPHIES! HERE, IN A SECRET CHAMBER, ARE HOUSED FOR ALL TIME HUNDREDS OF ODD SOUVENIRS OF THE BATMAN'S NEVER-CEASING WAR AGAINST VILLAINY!

AND PERHAPS THE STRANGEST EXHIBIT IN THE BATMAN'S AWESOME COLLECTION OF TROPHIES IS A STEEL, BULLETPROOF VEST... A VEST OF ARMOR THAT AFFECTED THE LIVES OF THREE BROTHERS WHO FLOUTED THE LAW...

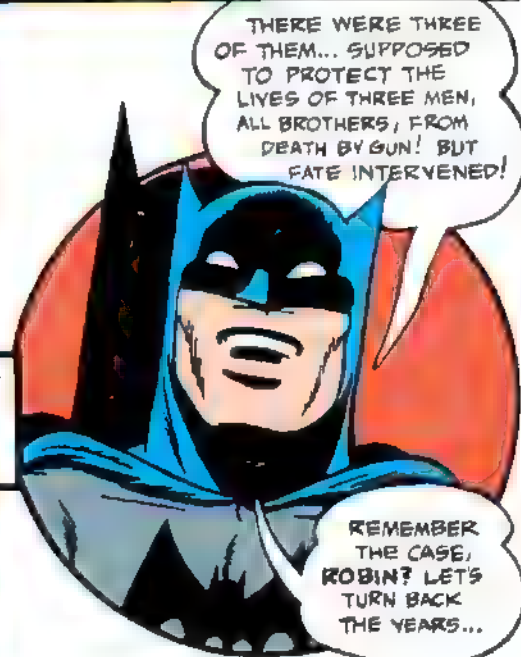
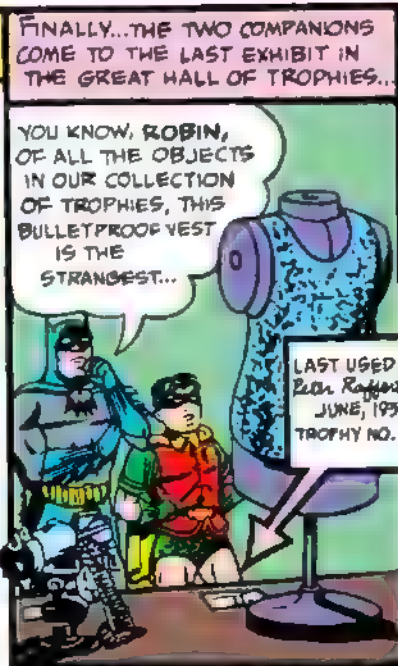
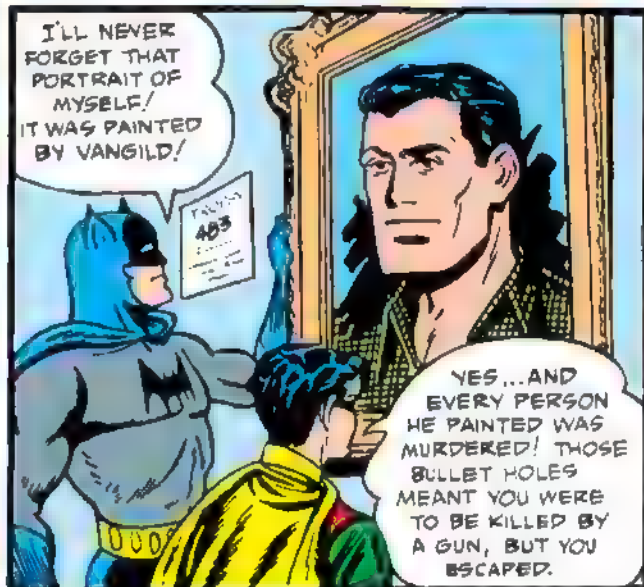
NOW, FOR THE FIRST TIME, IS REVEALED THE AMAZING CASE HISTORY OF TROPHY NO. 4! ... IN THE STARTLING STORY OF ...

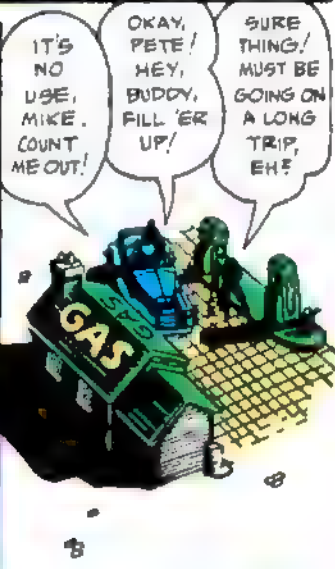
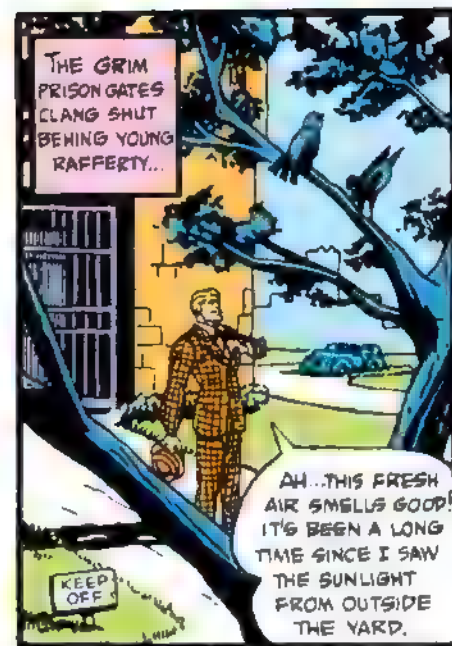
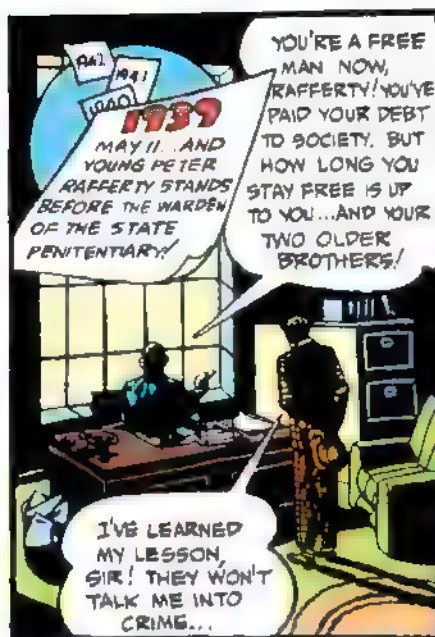
"BROTHERS IN CRIME!"

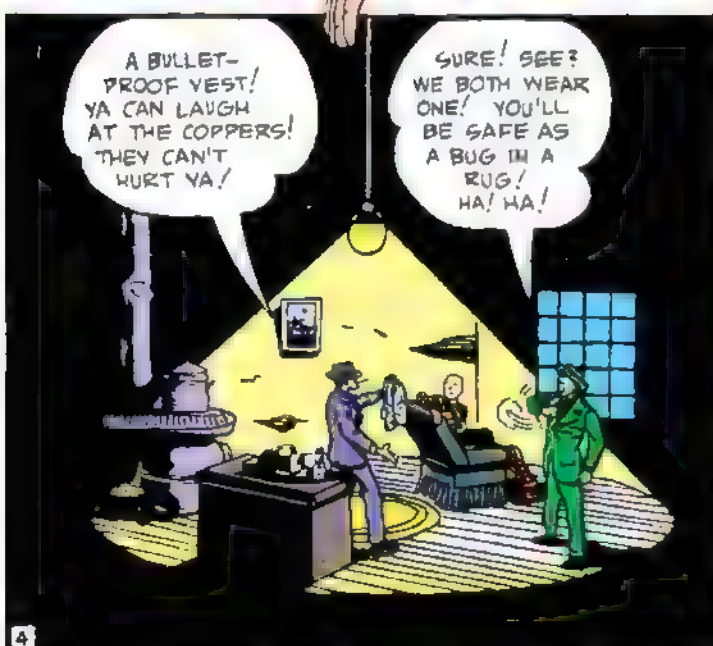
A GLOVED HAND REACHES GINGERLY FOR THE COMBINATION LOCK OF A SIX-INCH-THICK STEEL DOOR!

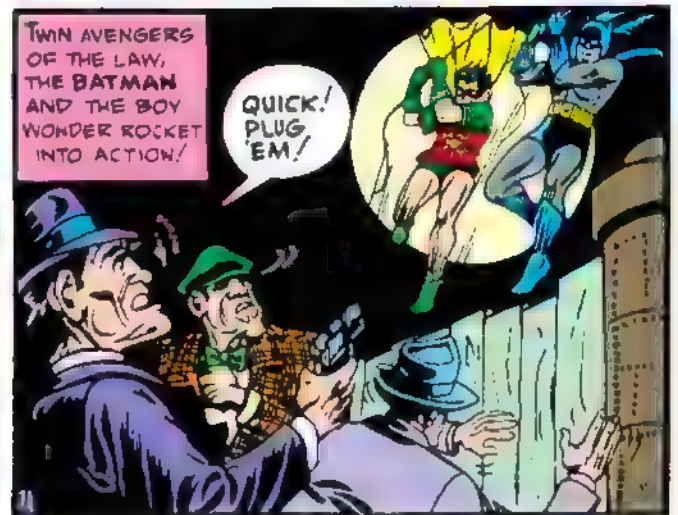
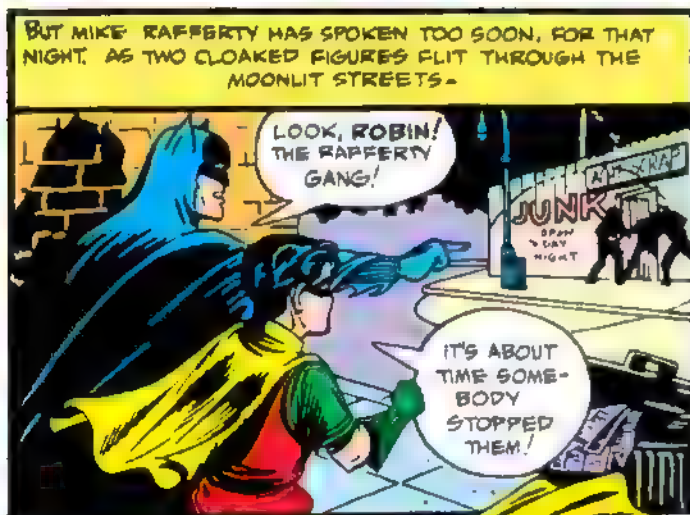
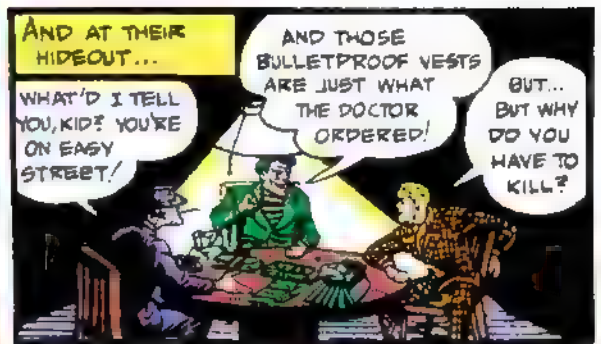


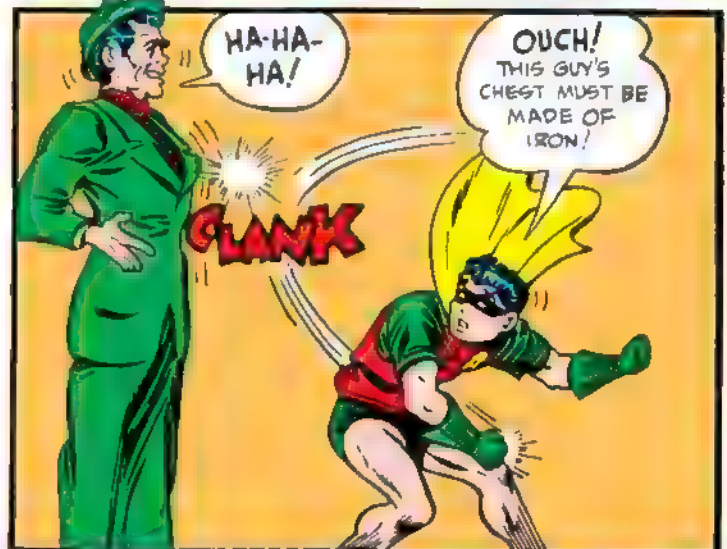
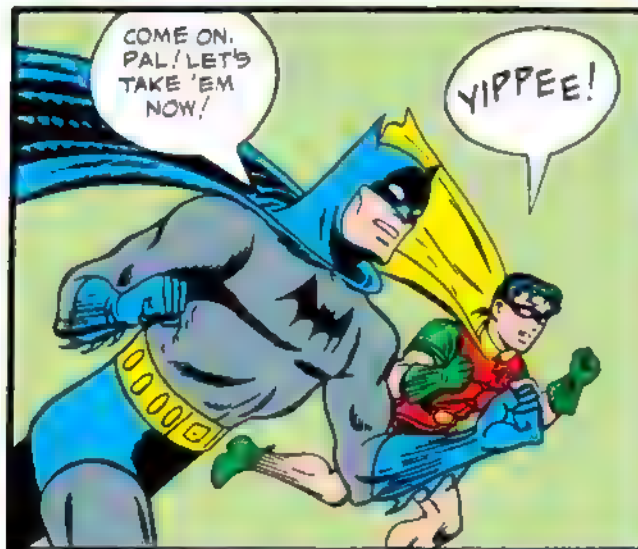
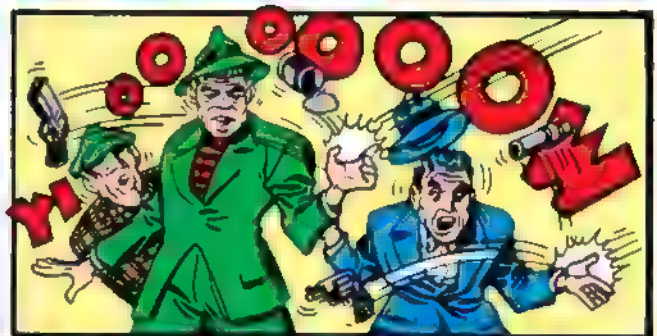
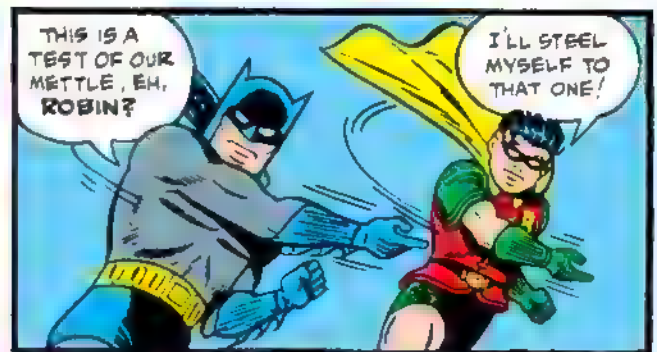
THE TWIRL OF A DIAL ... A CLICK OF TUMBLERS ... AND THE IMPENETRABLE DOOR SWINGS OPEN ..

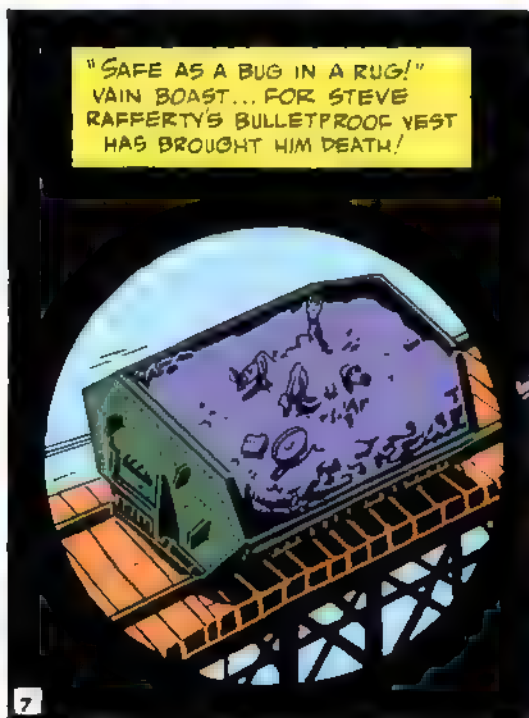


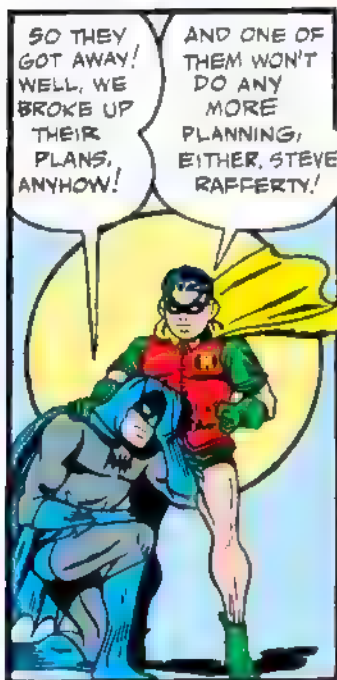


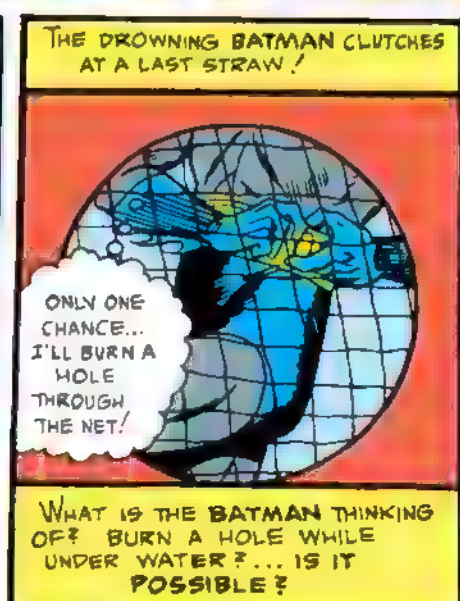
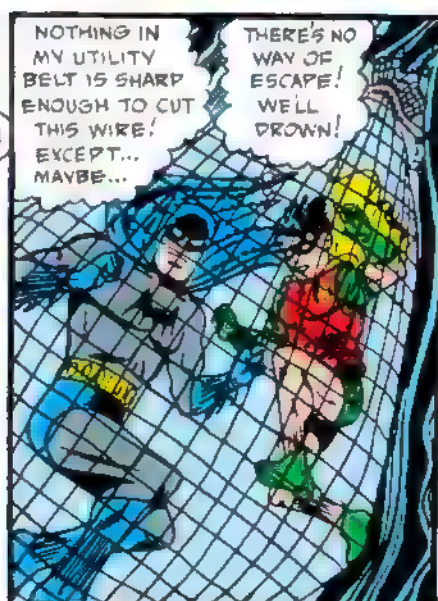
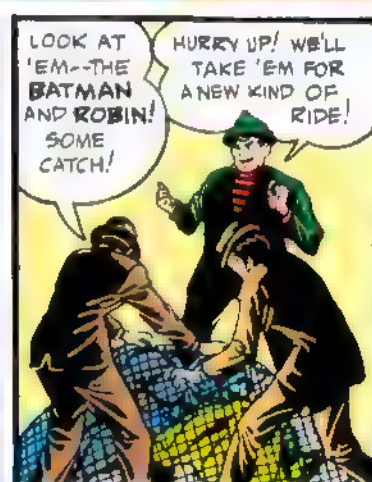
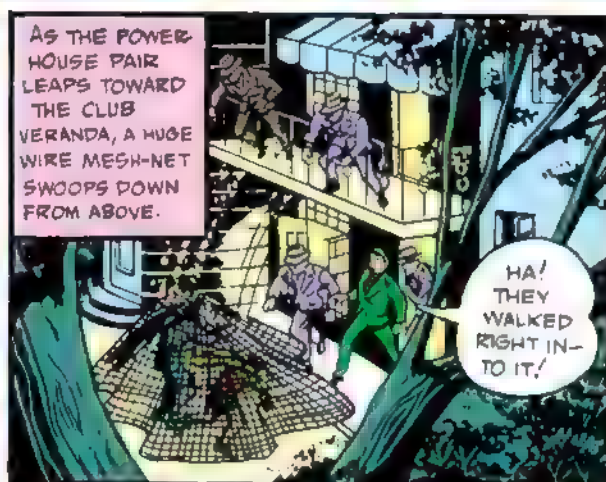
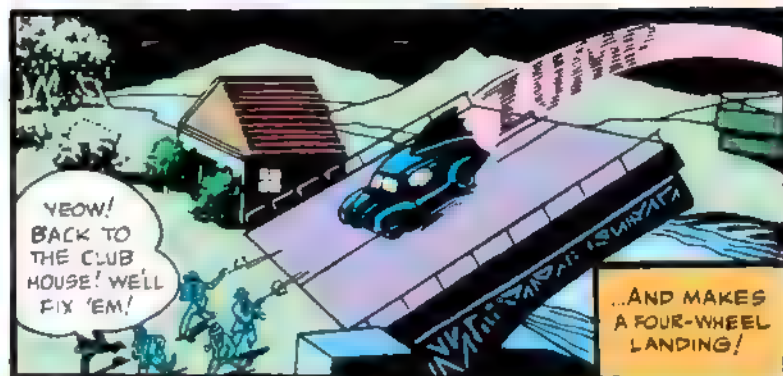




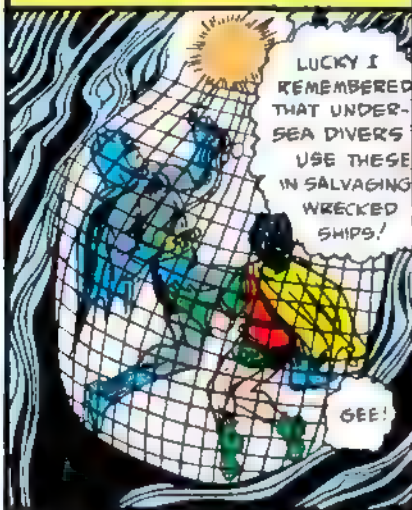




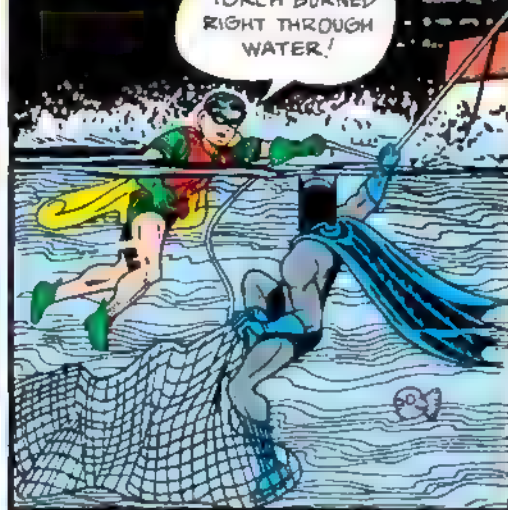




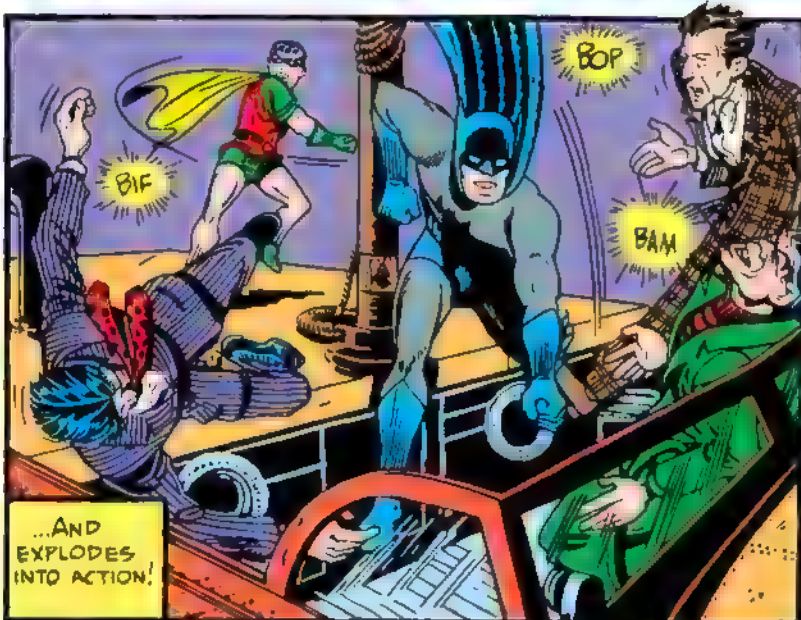
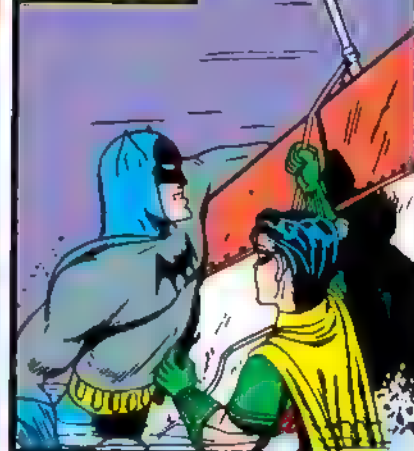
WITH A TINY OXY-ACETYLENE TORCH, THE BATMAN SHOOTS A STREAM OF TERRIFIC HEAT AGAINST THE WIRE NET!



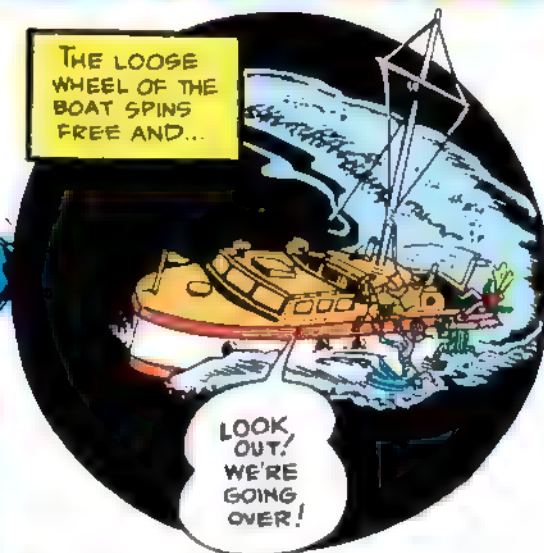
Moments Later...

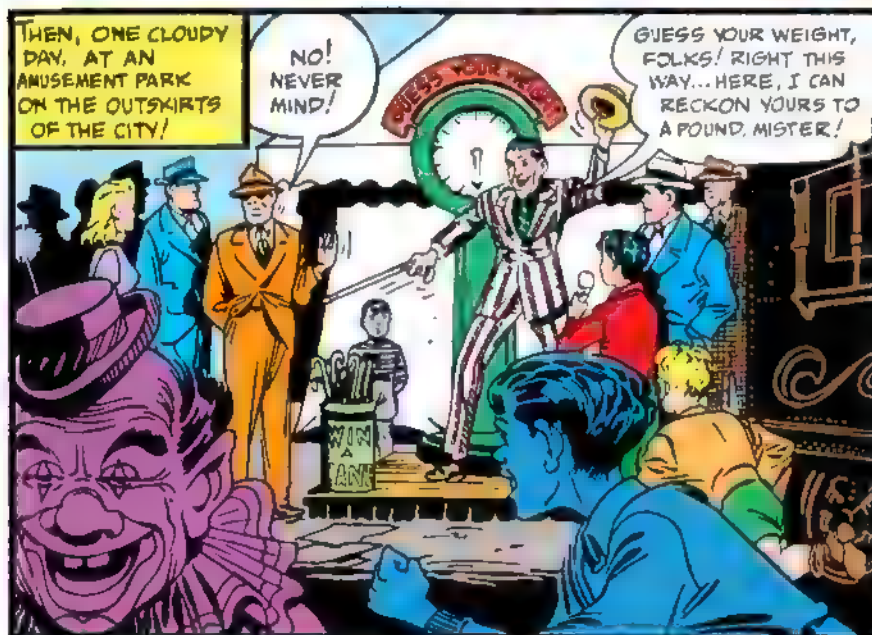
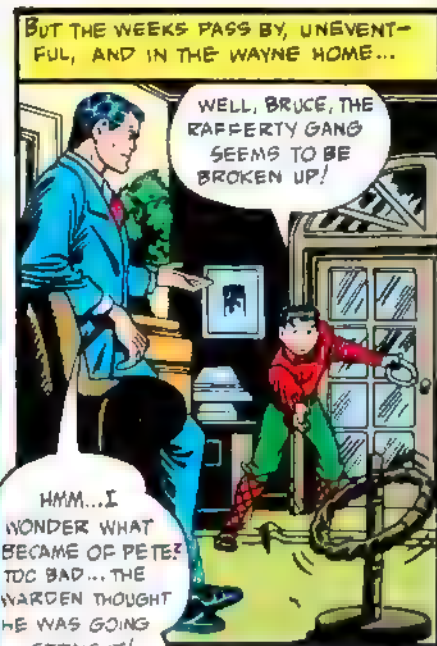


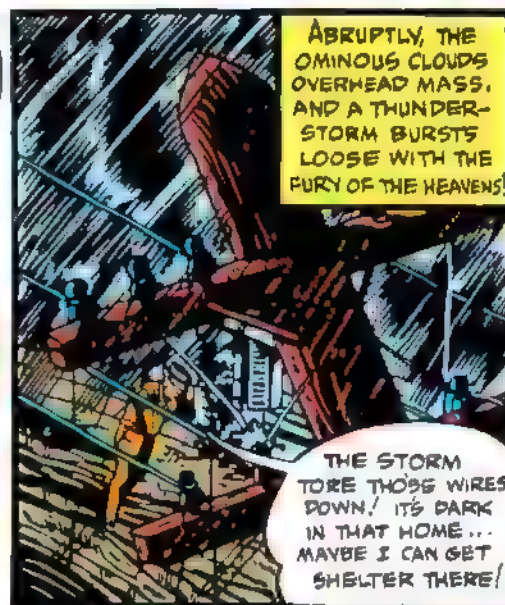
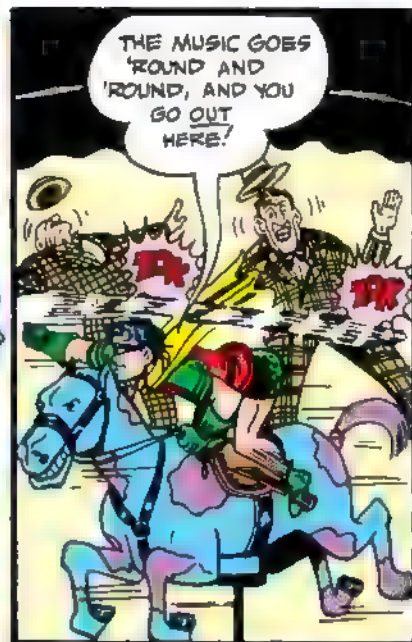
SILENTLY, THE DYNAMIC DUO INCHES ALONG TOWARD THE REAR OF THE BOAT...

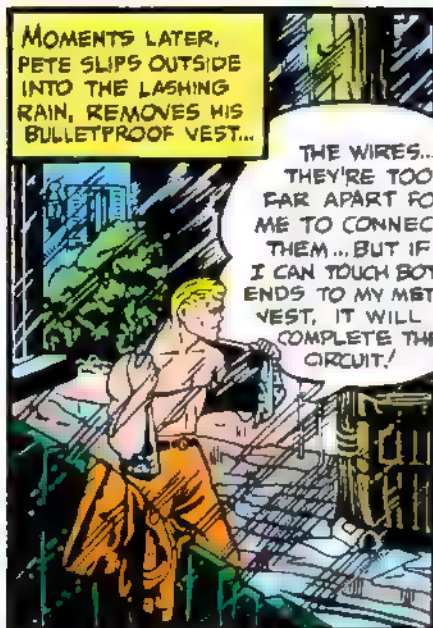


THE LOOSE WHEEL OF THE BOAT SPINS FREE AND...





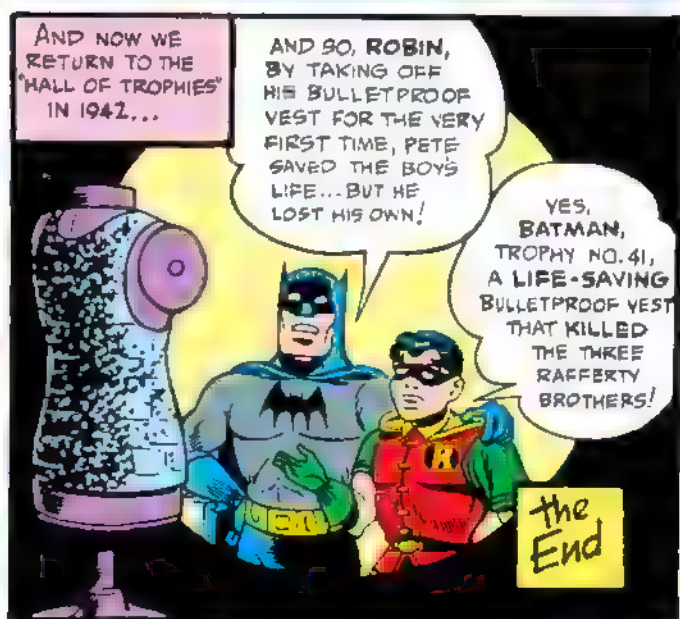
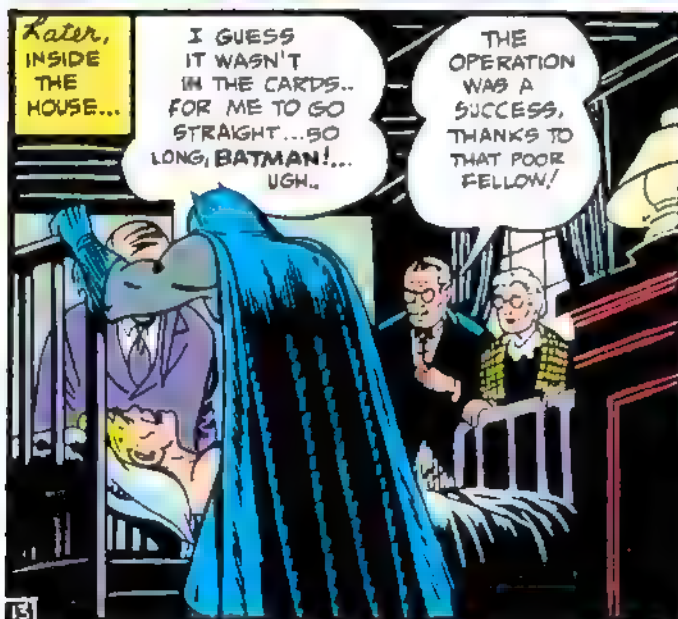
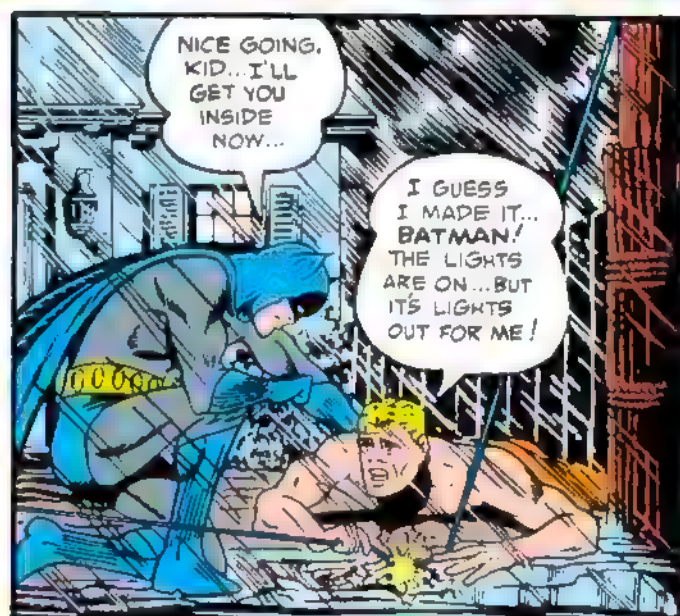
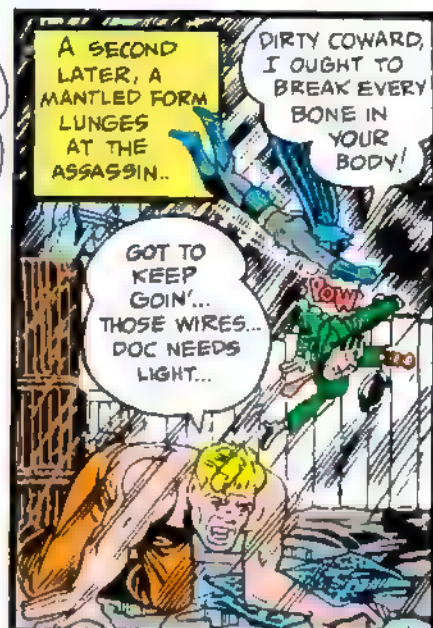




SUDDENLY... A GUN BARKS...



SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD RUN OUT ON THE MOB, EH? WELL, I TOLD YOU I'D GET YOU!



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

WHO LAUGHS AT THE LOCK-
SMITHS OF THE LAW?
WHO WEARS THE WHITE DEAD
MASK OF ANCIENT COMEDY AD-
JUSTED TO THE BODY OF A
LIVING MAN?

YES, YOU GUESSED IT!
IT IS THE JOKER... THE CRIME
CLOWN... THE HARLEQUIN
OF HATE!!

NOW THAT GRIMMEST OF JESTERS
RETURNS... AND LAUGHS AGAIN AS
HIS ETERNALLY GRINNING LIPS
MOUTH WORDS... WORDS OF GLANG.
HARMLESS INNOCENT WORDS WHICH

HIS WARPED MIND TWISTS
INTO THE LANGUAGE
OF CRIME! YES...
THE JOKER'S ACTIONS
SPEAK FOR THEMSELVES
WHEN HE BECOMES-
"THE
WIZARD OF WORDS!"



IN A GLOOMY ROOM, A MAN
SITS AND LAUGHS! BUT THIS
IS NO ORDINARY LAUGHTER...AND
THIS IS NO ORDINARY MAN...



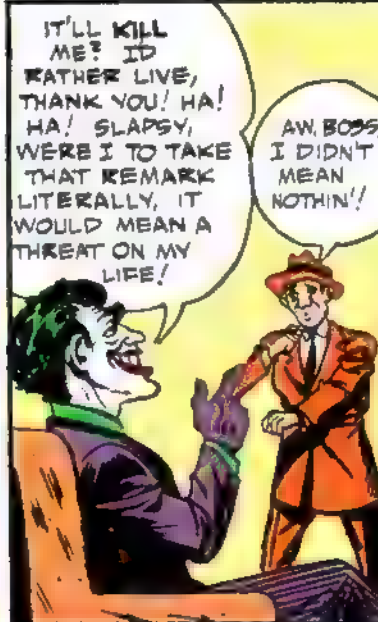
...FOR, THIS IS MELANCHOLY, JEERING
LAUGHTER...AND THIS MAN IS THAT DEALER
OF DROLLERY AND DOOM...THE JOKER!

NOW THE JOKER RELAXES AFTER HIS LAST CRIME ESCAPE...



A VERY GOOD JOKE, SLAPSY, HA! HA! DO YOU KNOW ANY MORE?

WAIT'LL YOU HEAR THIS ONE, BOSS. IT'LL KILL YA!



IT'LL KILL ME? ID RATHER LIVE, THANK YOU! HA! HA! SLAPSY, WERE I TO TAKE THAT REMARK LITERALLY, IT WOULD MEAN A THREAT ON MY LIFE!

AW, BOSS, I DIDN'T MEAN NOTHIN'!

I KNOW THAT, YET MOST PEOPLE USE SLANG EXPRESSIONS DAILY WHICH, IF CARRIED OUT WORD FOR WORD, WOULD CAUSE THEM TO COMMIT CRIMES! "I'LL MOW YOU DOWN" AND OTHERS! GET THE IDEA?



HMM! AND THAT GIVES ME A TREMENDOUS IDEA... AN IDEA THAT ONLY THE JOKER COULD THINK OF! HA! HA!

SNAP!

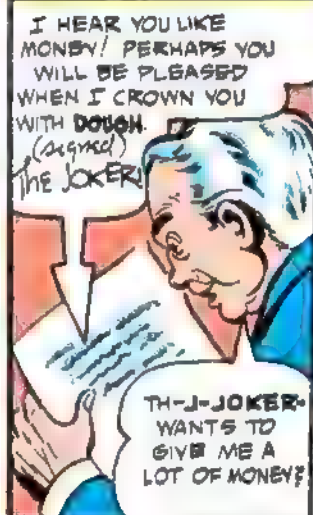


SLAPSY, GO OUT AND GET ME SOME BAKING DOUGH, A PICTURE FRAME, SOME FIRECRACKERS AND SOME BARRELS OF RED PAINT!

HUH?

WHAT IS THE JOKER'S PLAN? HOW CAN THESE UN-RELATED OBJECTS FIT TOGETHER TO FORM A CRIME PATTERN?

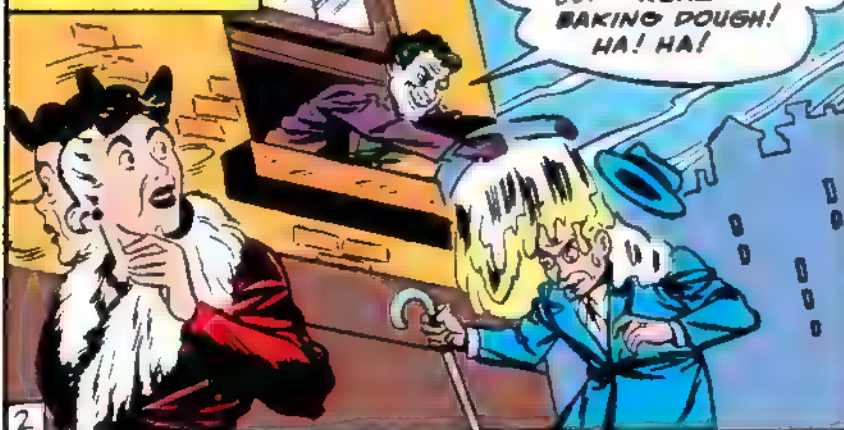
NEXT DAY, A PROMINENT BANKER RECEIVES A STRANGE MESSAGE...



I HEAR YOU LIKE MONEY! PERHAPS YOU WILL BE PLEASED WHEN I CROWN YOU WITH DOUGH.
(signed)
The Joker!

TH-J-JOKER- WANTS TO GIVE ME A LOT OF MONEY?

LATER THAT DAY... AS THE BANKER PASSES BENEATH A WINDOW...



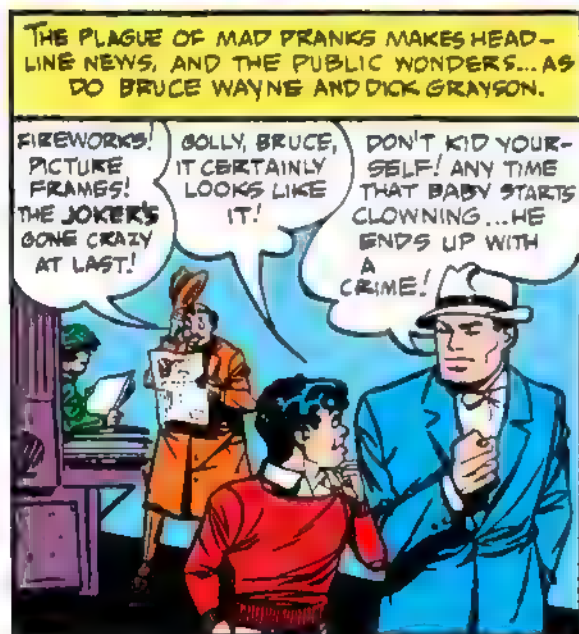
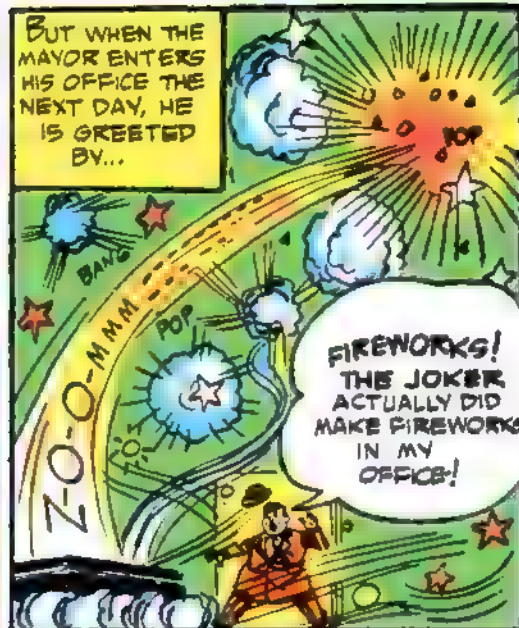
DIDN'T I SAY, I WOULD "COVER YOU WITH DOUGH? HA! HA! THIS IS NOT MONEY... BUT REAL BAKING DOUGH! HA! HA!

THAT SAME DAY, THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY ALSO GETS A LETTER!

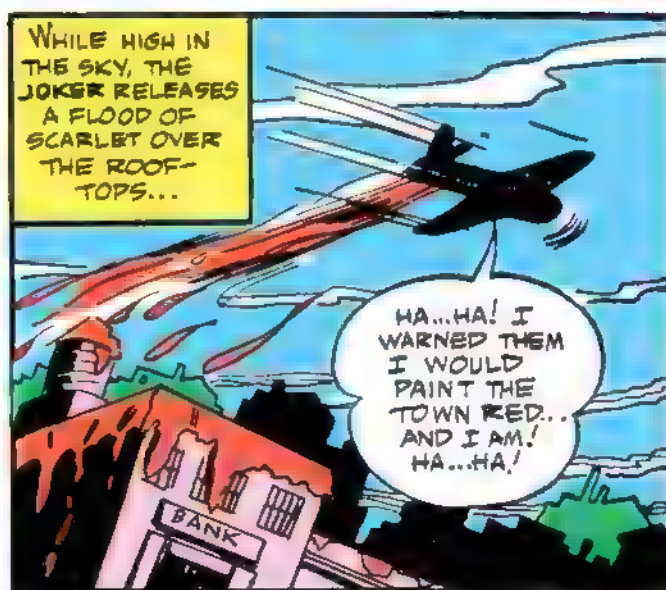
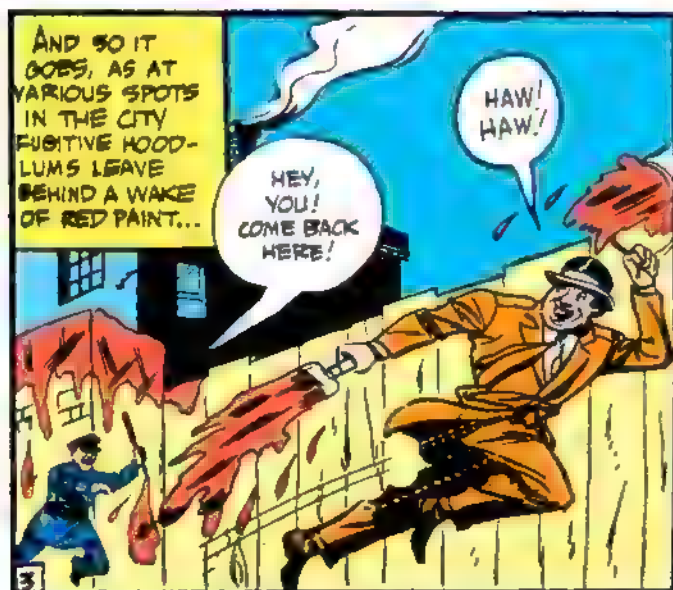
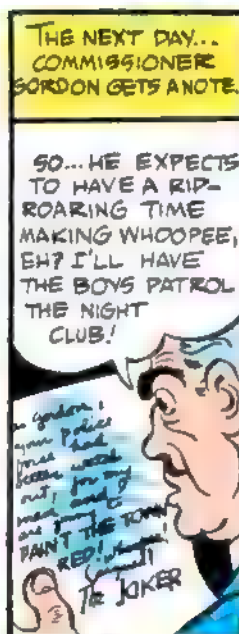


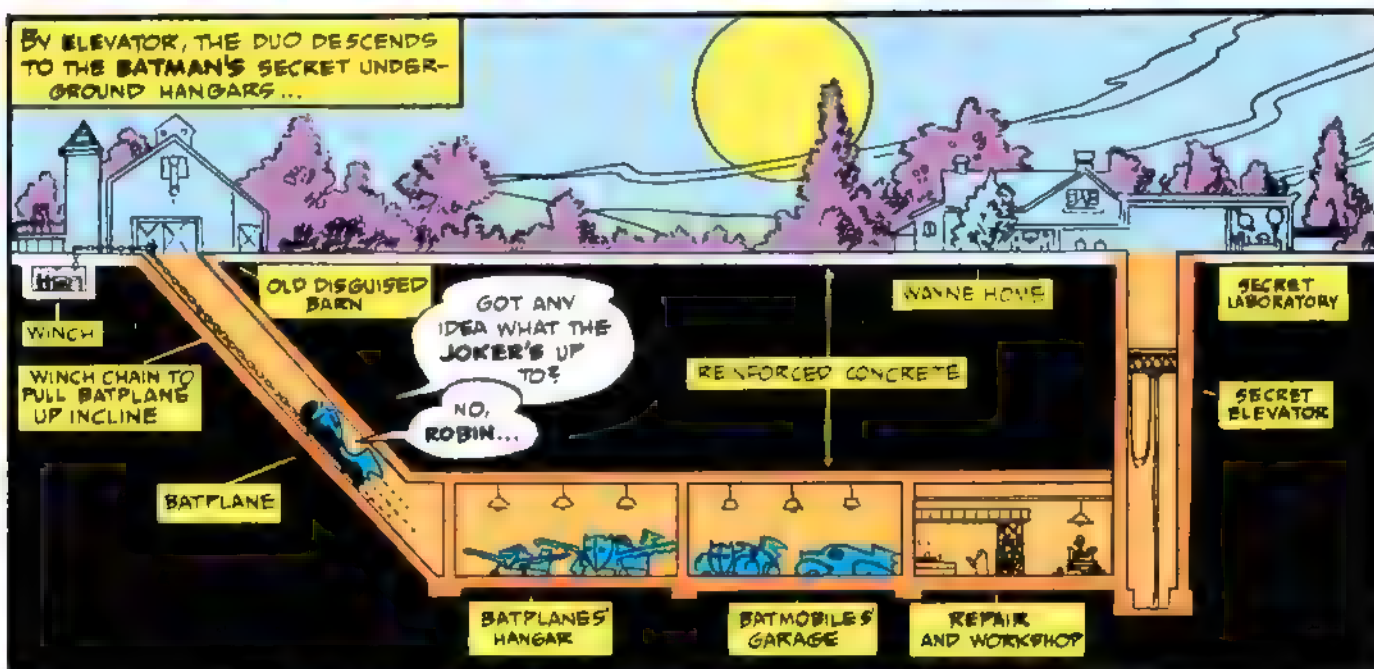
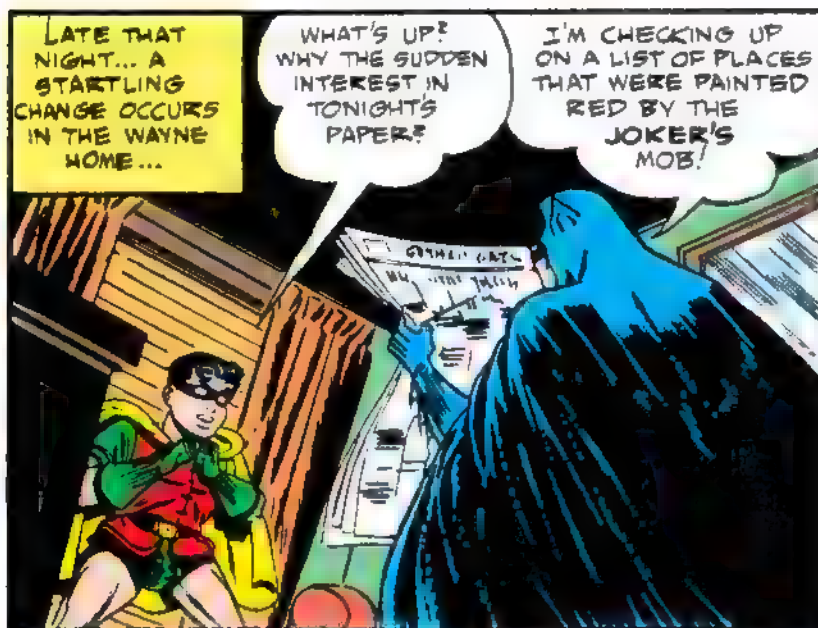
MR. D. A: I DON'T LIKE YOU! I'M GOING TO COMMIT A CRIME AND FRAME YOU FOR IT!
(signed)
The Joker!

HE CAN'T GET AWAY WITH THAT! HE CAN'T FRAME ME!

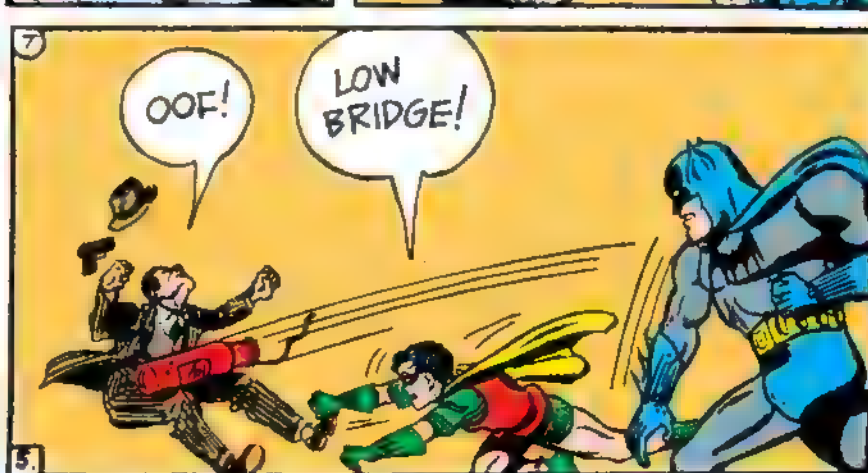
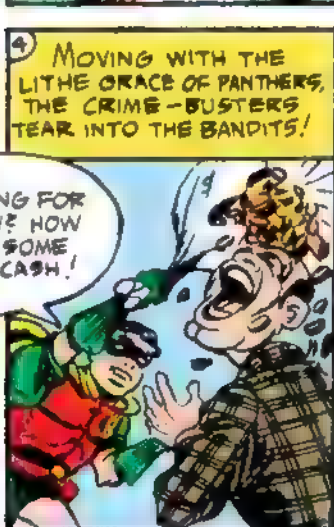
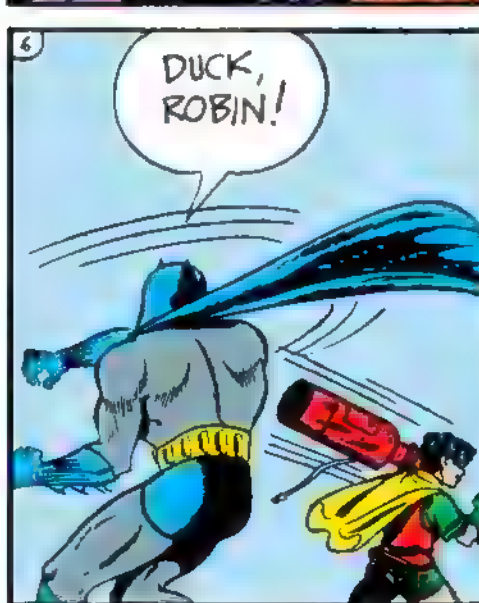


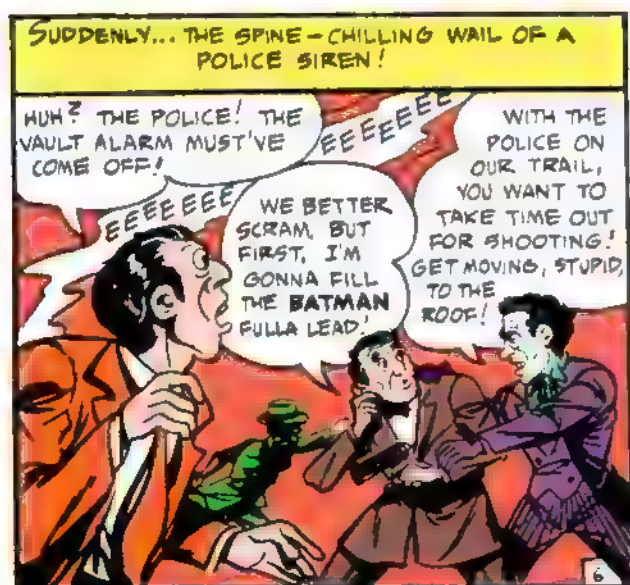
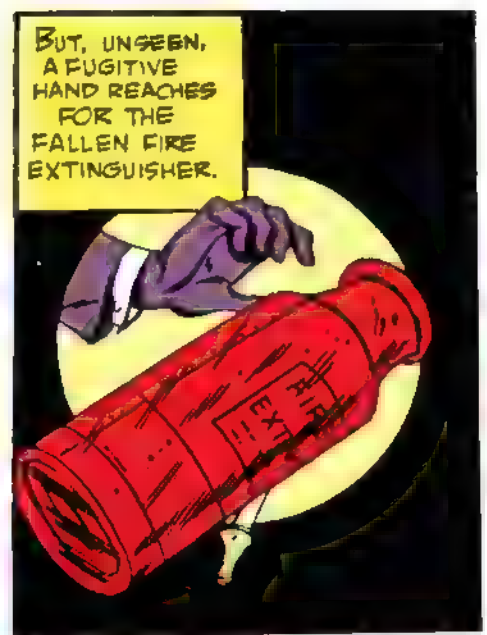
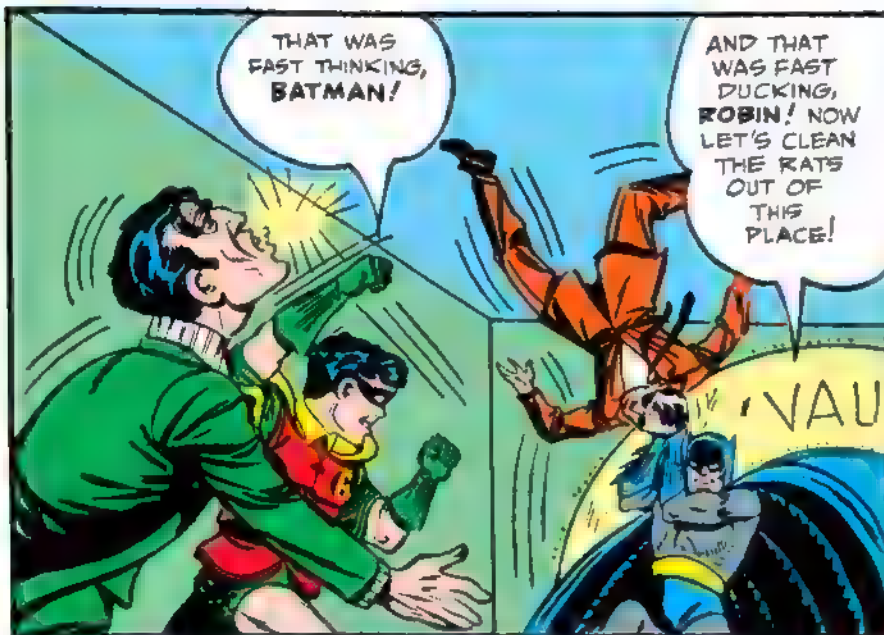
IS BRUCE RIGHT? IS THERE A CALCULATING THREAD OF EVIL WINDING THROUGH THIS PATTERN OF MAD MIRTH? LET'S SEE...





INSIDE, THE LOOTERS STRIKE SWIFTLY!





THAT NIGHT... IN THE JOKER'S SECRET SANCTUM...

BOSS, WE DIDN'T GET NOTHIN' ON THAT JOB AND ALL BECAUSE OF THE BATMAN! YOU SHOULD LET ME PLUG 'IM!

NO! ANYONE CAN KILL WITH A GUN! BUT I'M NOT ANYONE! I'M THE JOKER!

WHEN I KILL IT MUST BE WITH SOME IMAGINATION. BUT YOU ARE RIGHT! I MUST GET THE BATMAN BEFORE HE GETS ME!

LEAVE ME! I WANT TO THINK! I WANT TO PLAN A FATAL TRAP FOR THE BATMAN... HA! HA!

THE FOLLOWING NIGHT... A NEWS FLASH...

FLASH! COMMISSIONER GORDON JUST RECEIVED A CALL FROM THE JOKER WHO VOWED TO "MAKE HOT NEWS BY SETTING THE WORLD ON FIRE!"

TO "SET THE WORLD ON FIRE" MEANS TO GET FAME! BUT, THE JOKER ILLUSTRATING HIS MESSAGES WORD FOR WORD—

IF HE INTENDS TO PUT THE WHOLE WORLD IN FLAMES, HE WILL MAKE HOT NEWS!

"HOT NEWS"... THE GOTHAM WORLD! THE NEWSPAPER! IT JUST MOVED FROM AN OLD BUILDING TO A MODERNISTIC, FIRE-PROOF SKYSCRAPER!

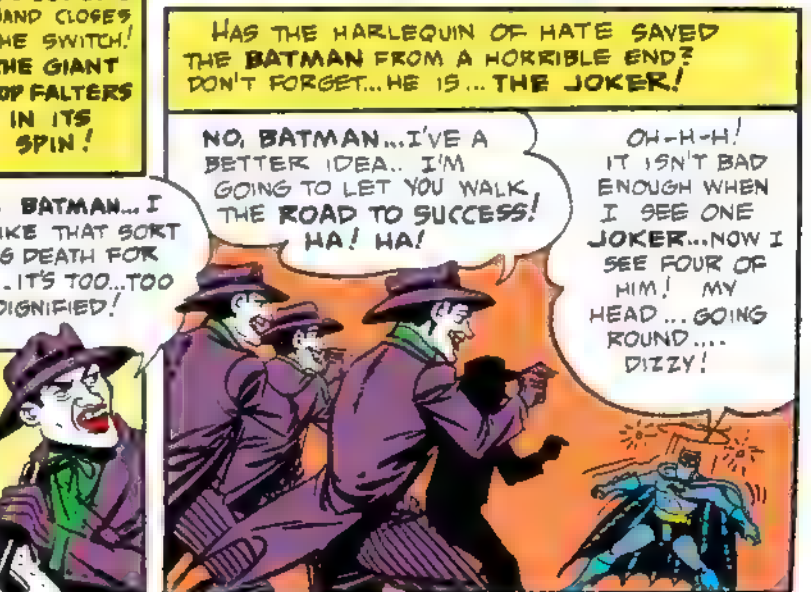
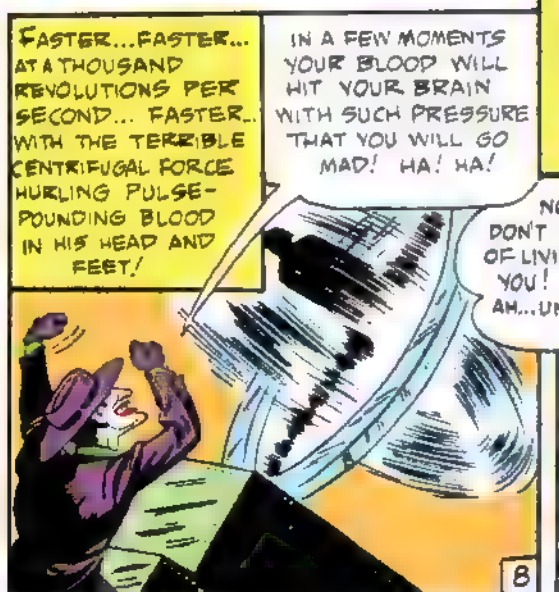
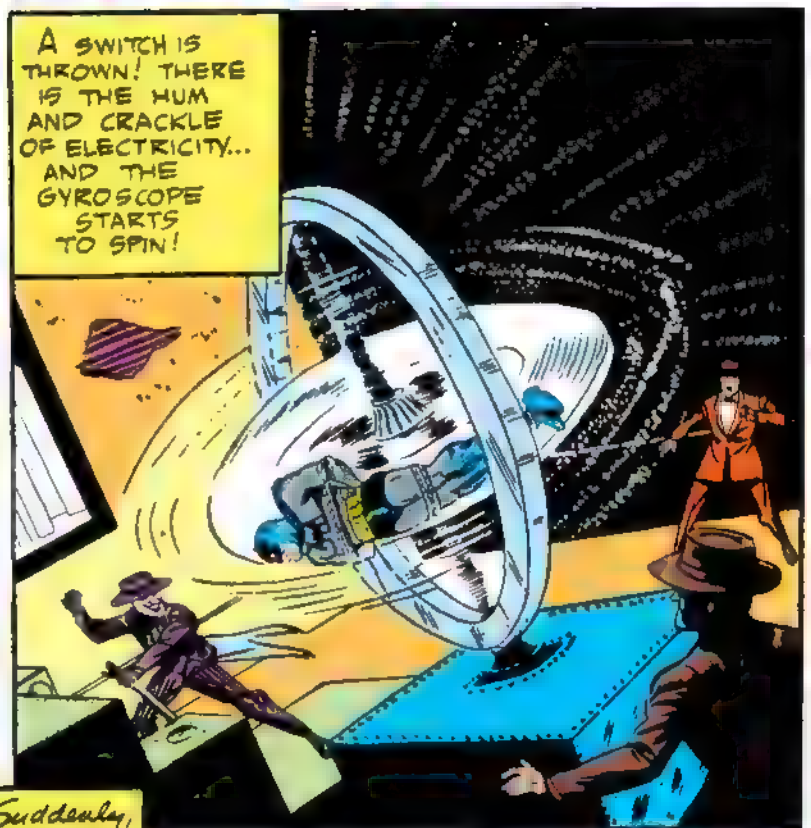
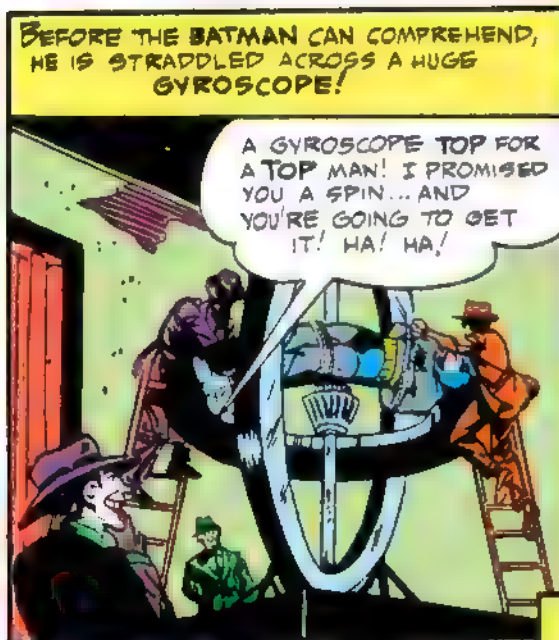
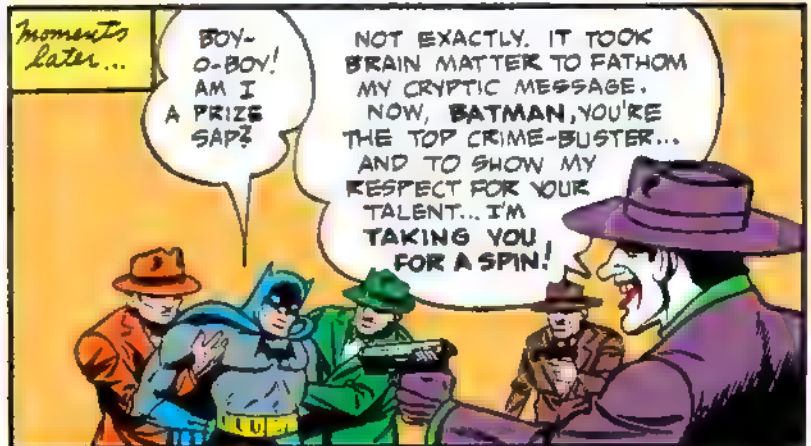
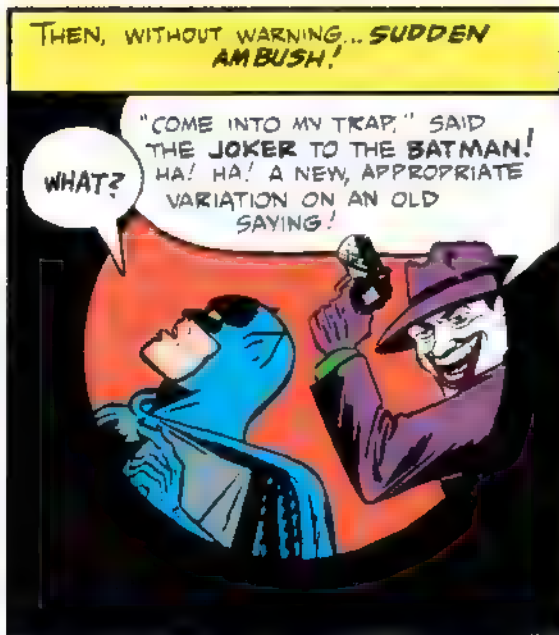
THERE, THAT'S THE WORLD HE'S GOING TO SET ON FIRE! LET'S GET GOING!

MINUTES LATER... THE DUO HALTS BEFORE A RAMSHACKLE OLD FACTORY THAT LOOMS OMINOUSLY AGAINST THE GLOOMY WATER-FRONT

THERE'S WHERE THEY ONCE PRINTED THAT PAPER! BUT WHICH PLACE DO YOU THINK THE JOKER MEANS... THIS OR THE NEW BUILDING?

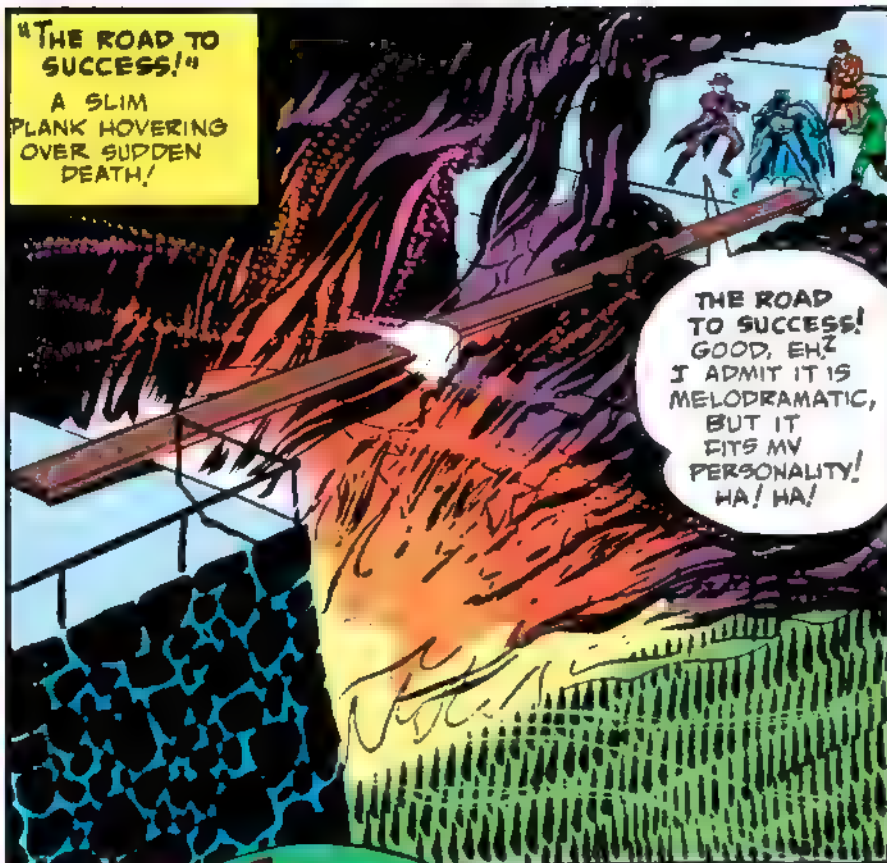
I DON'T KNOW! TELL YOU WHAT, WE'LL SPLIT UP! YOU TAKE THE NEW BUILDING, I'LL INVESTIGATE THE OLD FIRE-TRAP!

LATER... A WEIRD, BATLIKE SHAPE FLITS WARILY OVER DUST-COVERED FLOORS!



"THE ROAD TO SUCCESS!"

A SLIM PLANK HOVERING OVER SUDDEN DEATH!



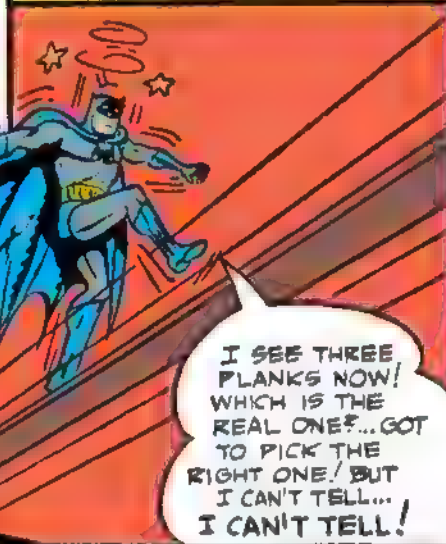
THE ROAD TO SUCCESS! GOOD, EH? I ADMIT IT IS MELODRAMATIC, BUT IT FITS MY PERSONALITY! HA! HA!

THE DAZED BATMAN IS PRODDED OUT ONTO THE PLANK WITHOUT FULLY REALIZING HIS DESPERATE PLIGHT...

CROSS THAT PLANK SUCCESSFULLY AND YOU ARE FREE! FAILURE MEANS DEATH! EITHER THE BURNING OIL ON ONE SIDE, OR THE UPRIGHT SPIKES ON THE OTHER! HA! HA!



BUT ONTO THE PLANK STEPS THE BATMAN...



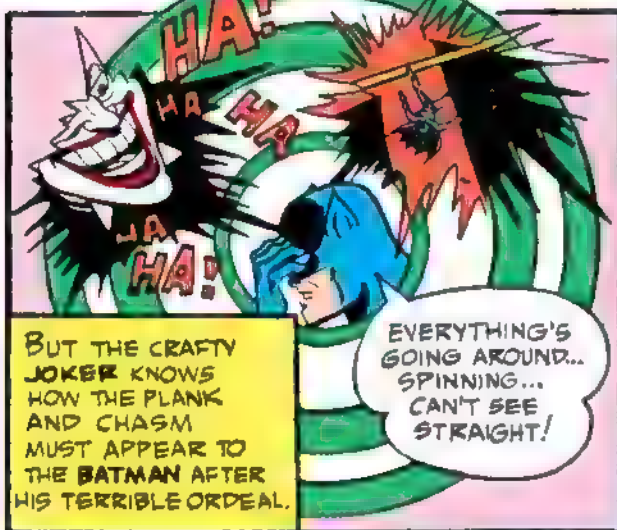
HA! HA!

I SEE THREE PLANKS NOW! WHICH IS THE REAL ONE?... GOT TO PICK THE RIGHT ONE! BUT I CAN'T TELL! I CAN'T TELL!

HA! HA! HA! HA!

BUT THE CRAFTY JOKER KNOWS HOW THE PLANK AND CHASM MUST APPEAR TO THE BATMAN AFTER HIS TERRIBLE ORDEAL.

EVERYTHING'S GOING AROUND... SPINNING... CAN'T SEE STRAIGHT!



OWOO!

AS THE JOKER MOVES TO PROD THE BATMAN TO CERTAIN DEATH... SUDDENLY... A HUM... AND SOMETHING SMACKS HIS HAND!



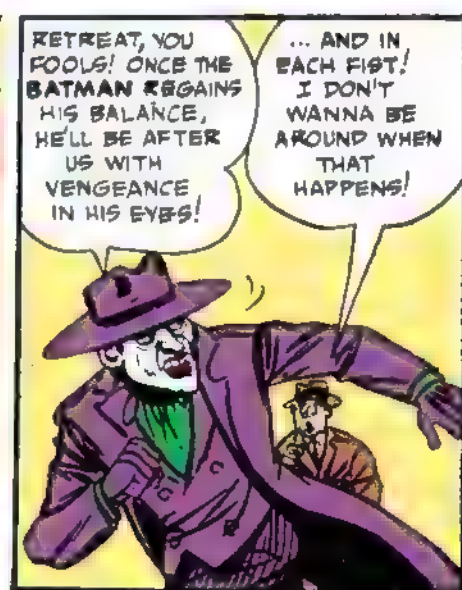
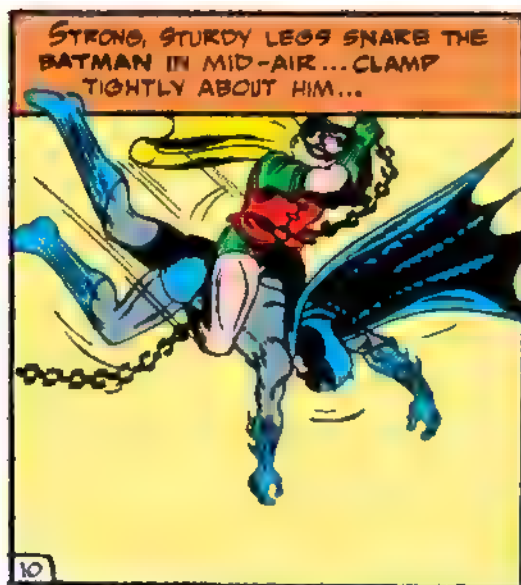
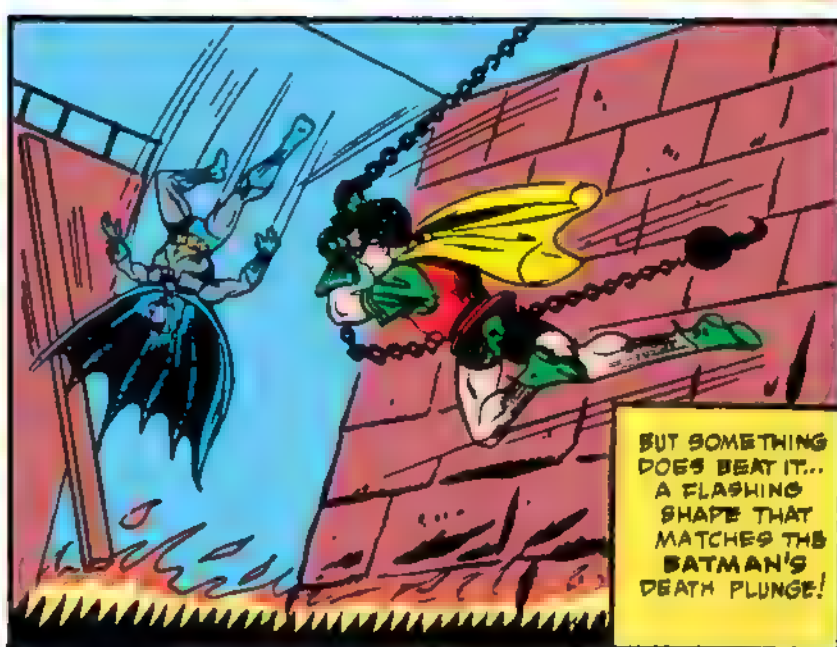
THEN CATAPULTING FORWARD, TWIRLING HIS SLING-SHOT IS A MODERN YOUNG DAVID TO DEFEAT A GOLIATH OF CRIME... ROBIN!

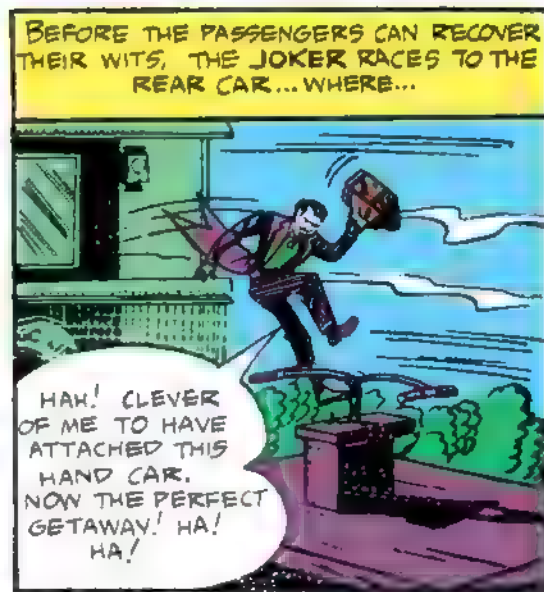
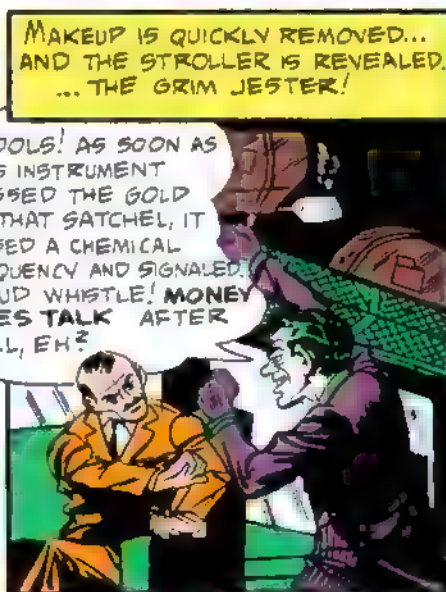
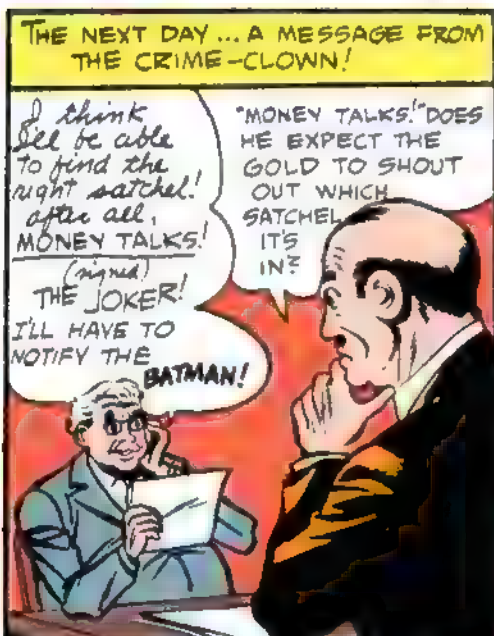
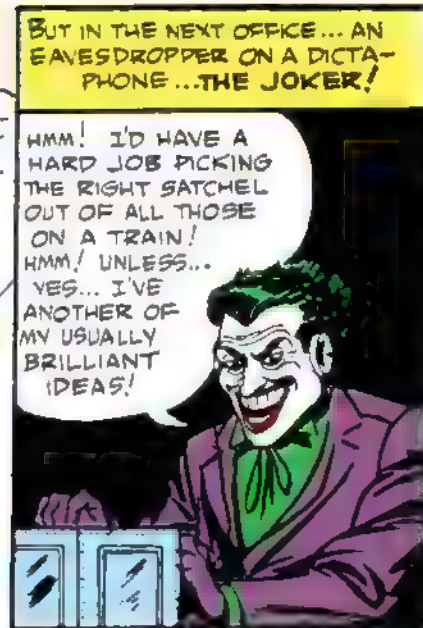
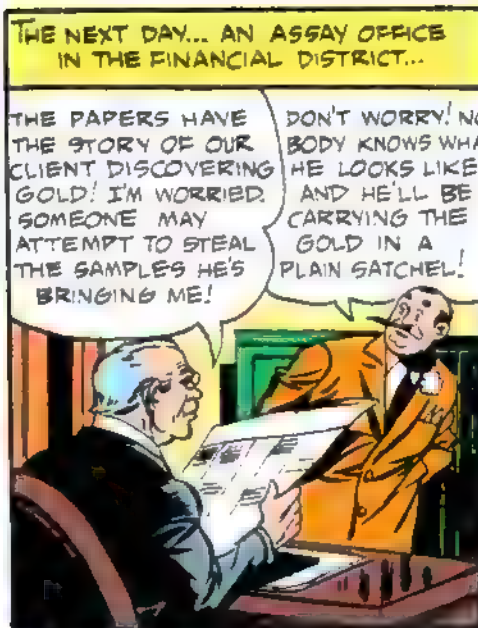


NOW THIS IS WHAT I CALL ARRIVING IN THE NICK OF TIME!

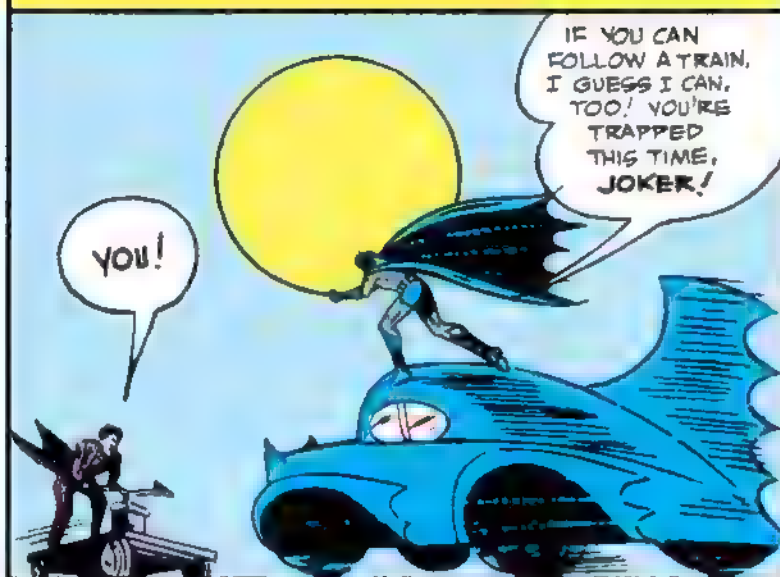
YIPPEE! OUTA MY WAY! I'M RIDING HIGH!



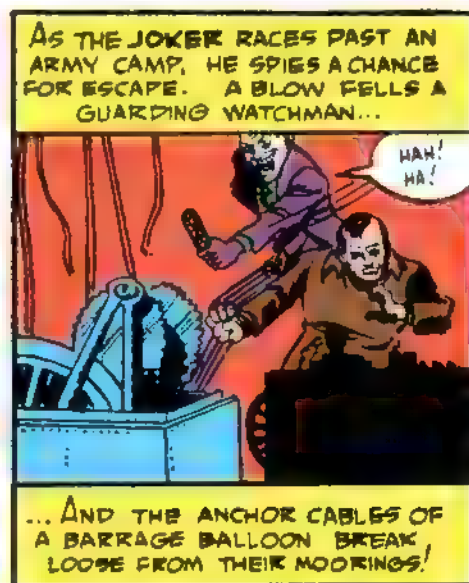
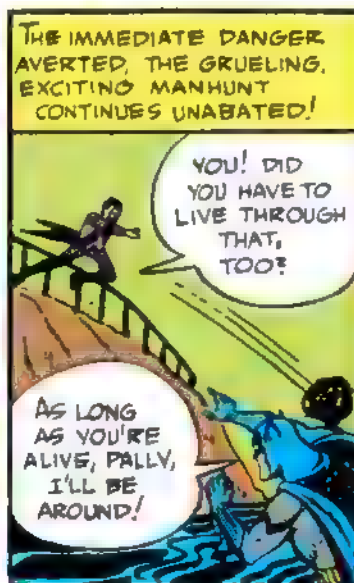
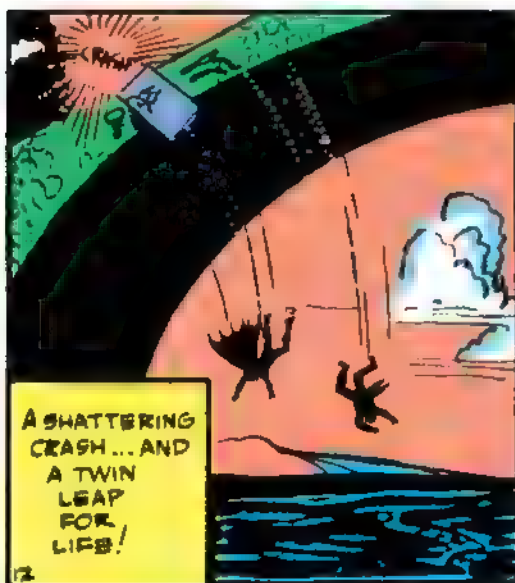
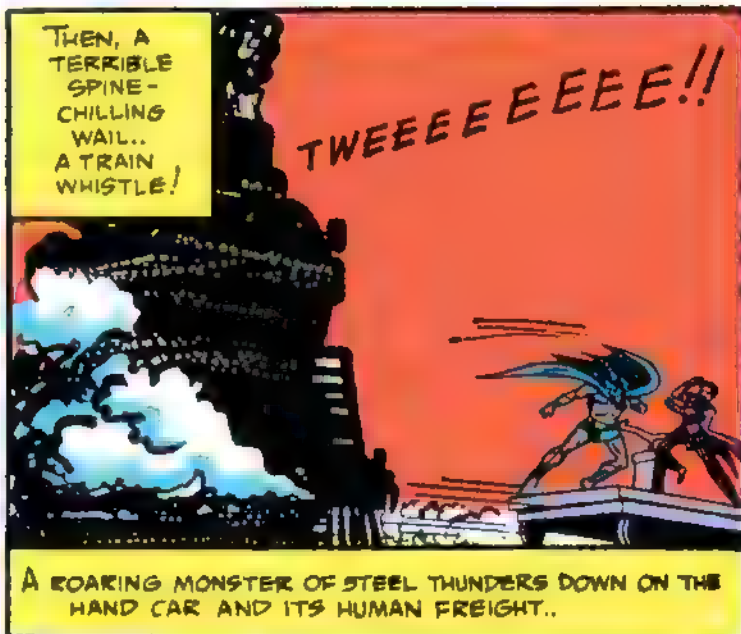
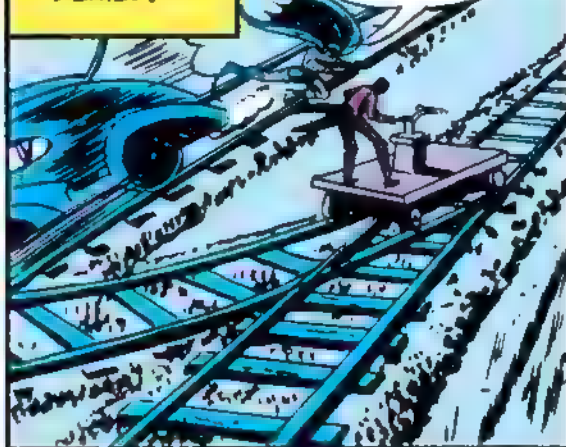


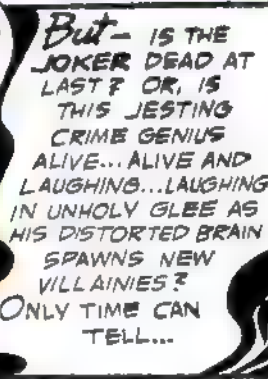
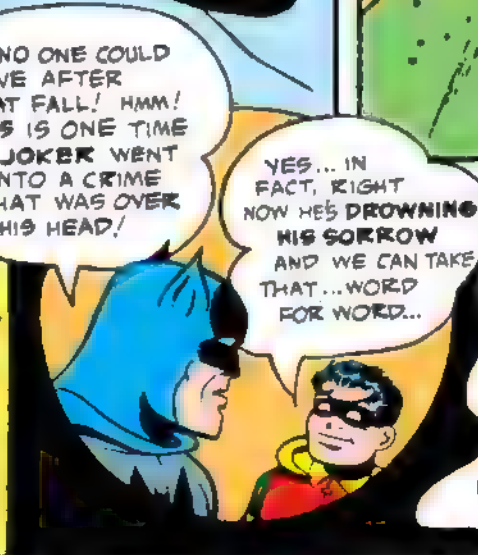
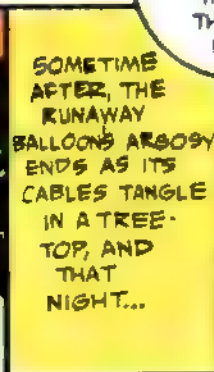
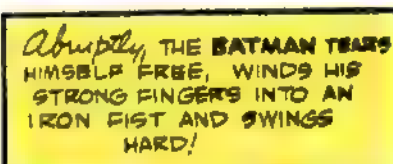
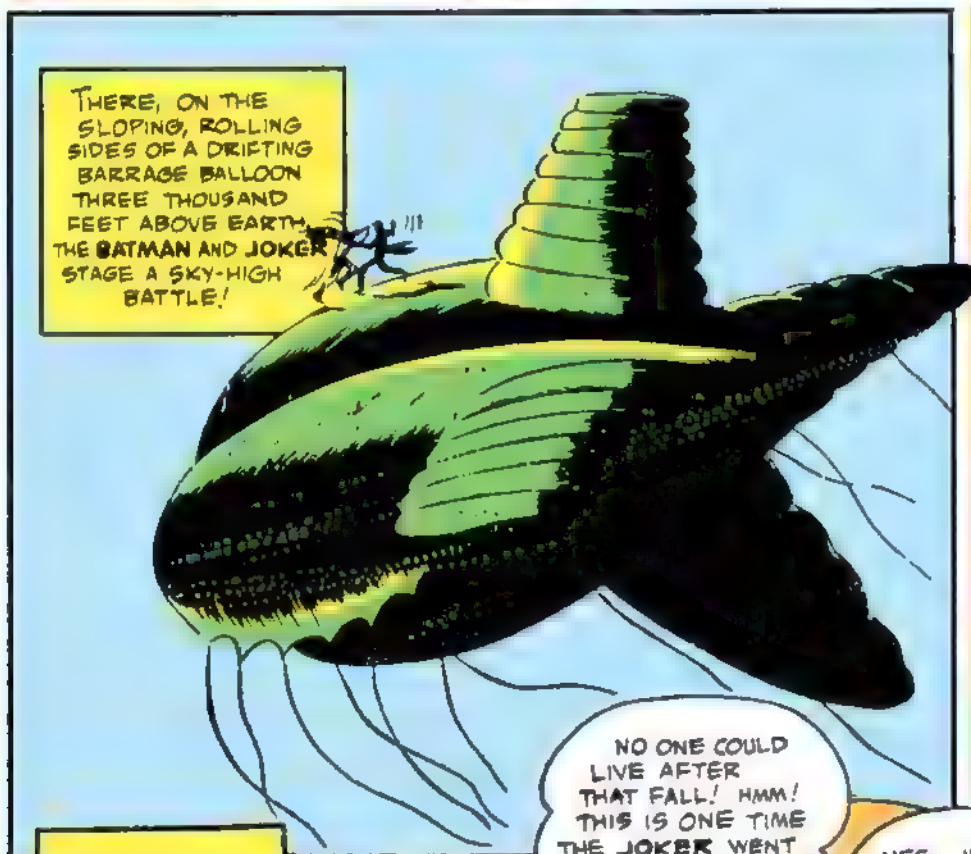
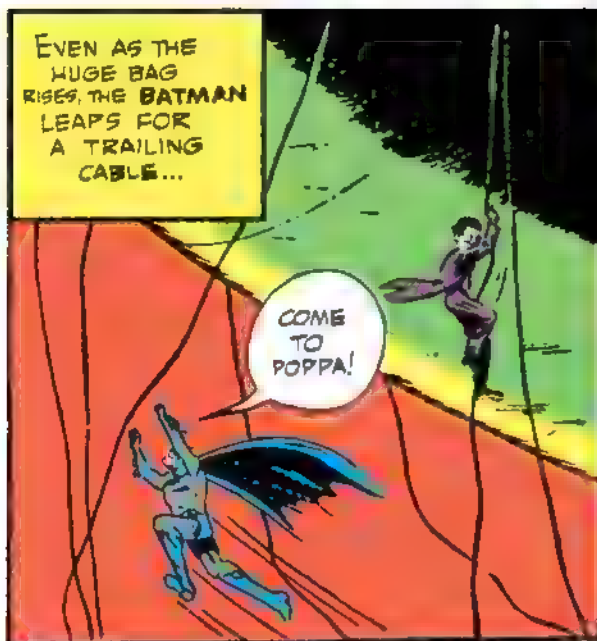


But, RACING IN THE WAKE OF THE TRAIN...THE BATMOBILE



THE WILY JOKER SWIFTLY SWITCHES ONTO ANOTHER TRACK ... BUT THE BATMAN IS NOT TO BE DENIED!





BATMAN

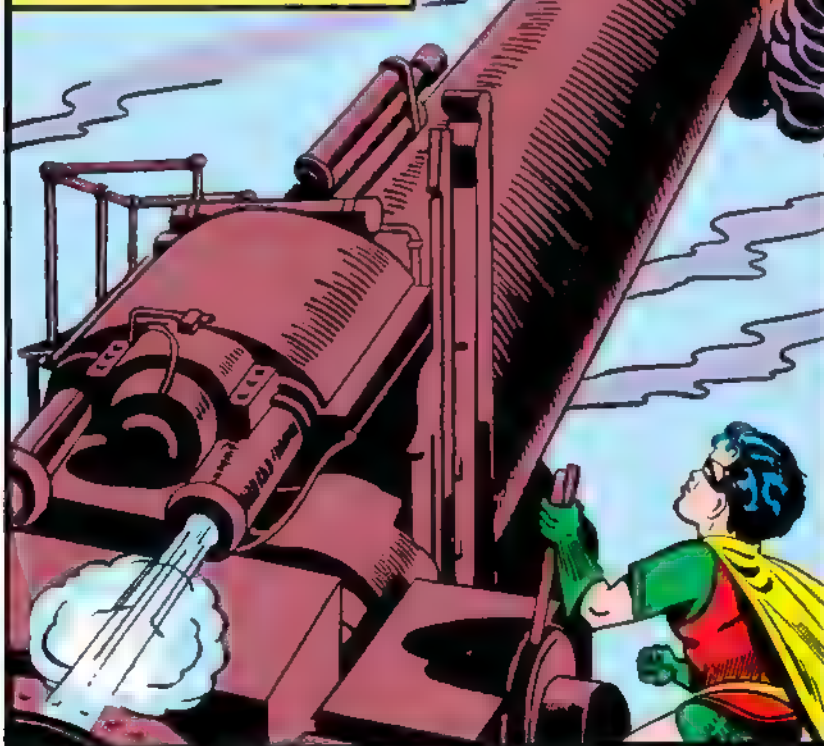
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

DANGER IS THE DAILY DIET OF THOSE HUMAN DAREDEVILS WE CALL THE "STUNT MEN" --- THOSE FEARLESS FELLOWS WHO RECKLESSLY STAKE THEIR VERY LIVES UPON THEIR STEELY NERVES! HAIRBREADTH ESCAPES ARE THEIR STOCK-IN-TRADE. BREATH-TAKING HAZARDS HOLD NO TERRORS FOR THEM --- UNTIL DEATH MYSTERIOUSLY HALTS THEIR GALLANT DEEDS!

THIS IS THE THRILLING STORY OF MEN WHO HAVE TO BE BRAVE FOR A PRICE... AND OF BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER, WHOSE BRAVERY COULD NOT BE BOUGHT... IN THE ADVENTURE OF ---

"THEY THRILL TO CONQUER!"

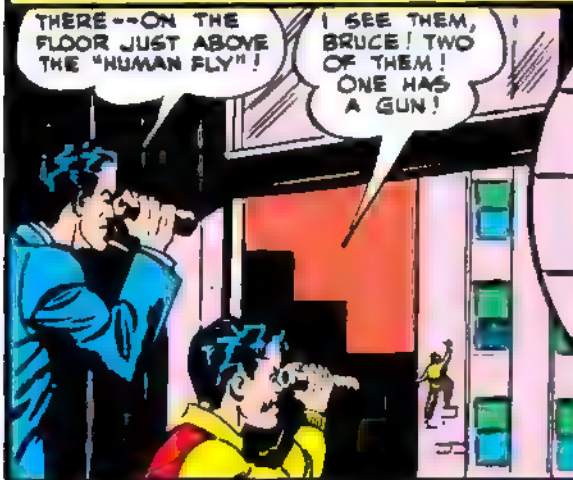
BOB
KANE



UP THE SHEER FACE OF A SKYSCRAPER CLIMBS A "HUMAN FLY" TO DO HIS BIT FOR UNCLE SAM!



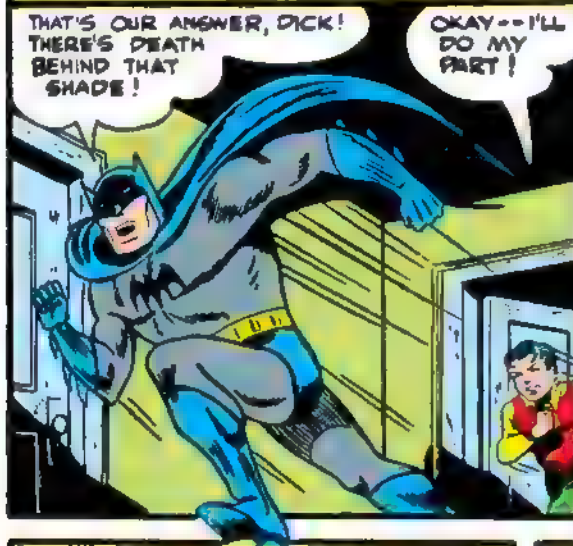
THOUSANDS OF WATCHERS -- BUT ONLY TWO, KEEN-EYED BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, SEE --



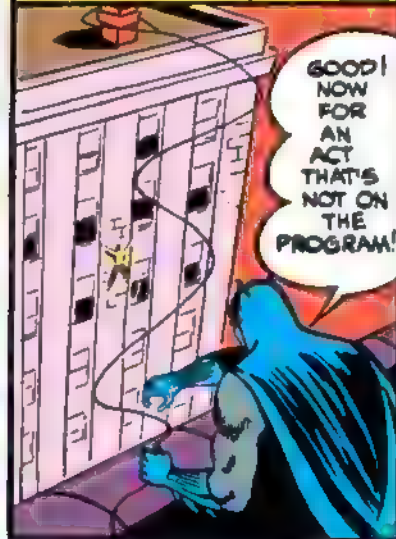
-- A SINISTER GLINT OF LIGHT FROM A SHADED WINDOW!



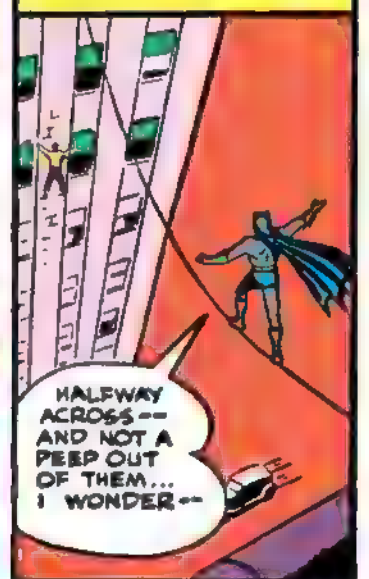
ONLY A TELLTALE FLASH -- BUT SUFFICIENT TO TRANSFORM BRUCE WAYNE INTO HIS OTHER SELF, THE BATMAN!



TWENTY STORIES ABOVE THE GAPING THOUSANDS, THE CRIME NEMESIS SHAKES A SILKEN CORD ACROSS THE GULF OF SPACE...



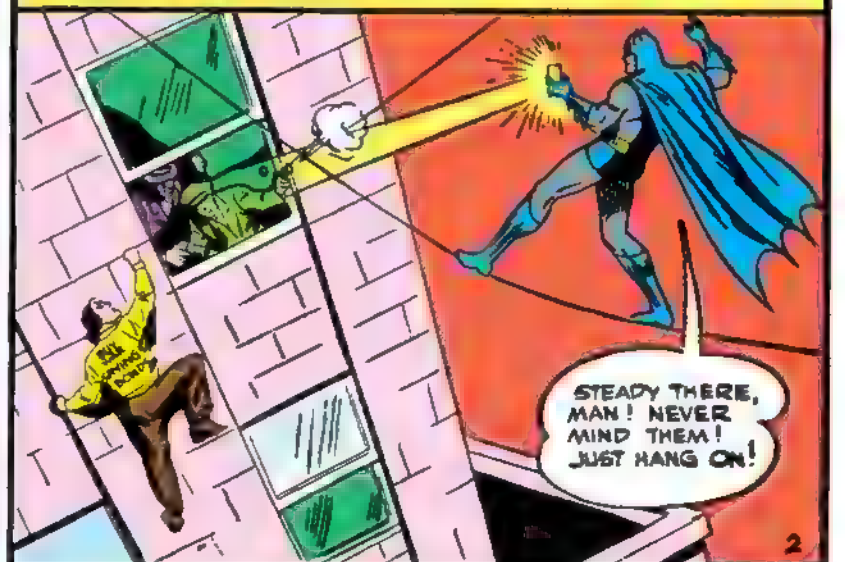
ACROSS THE DIZZY CHASM INCHES THE ACRO-BATMAN...

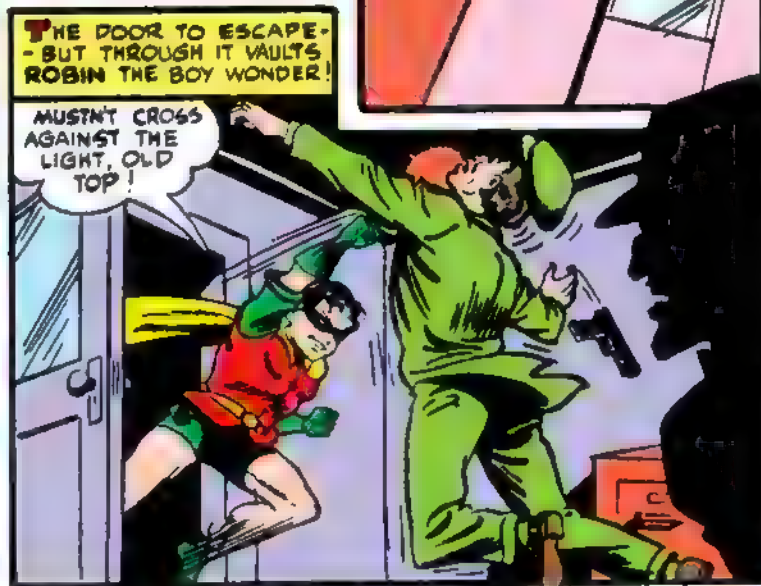
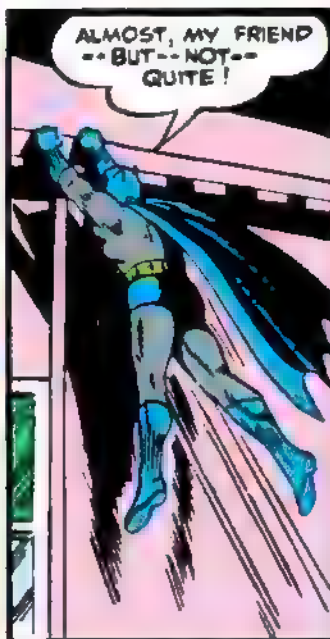
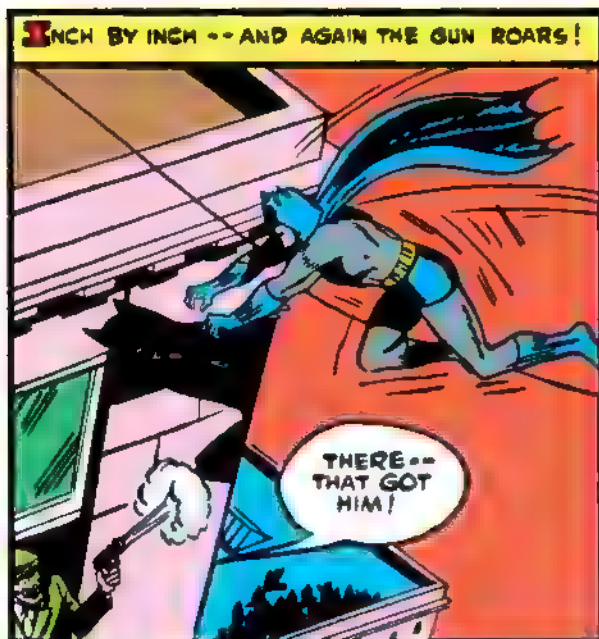


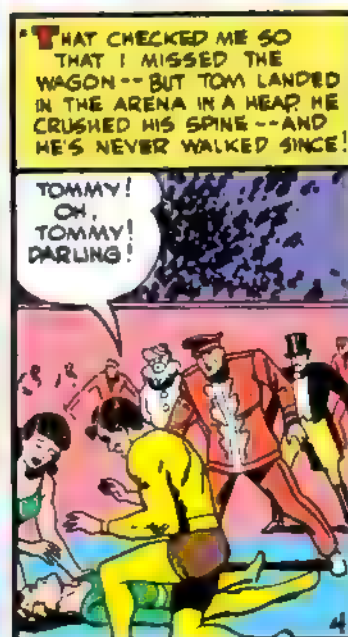
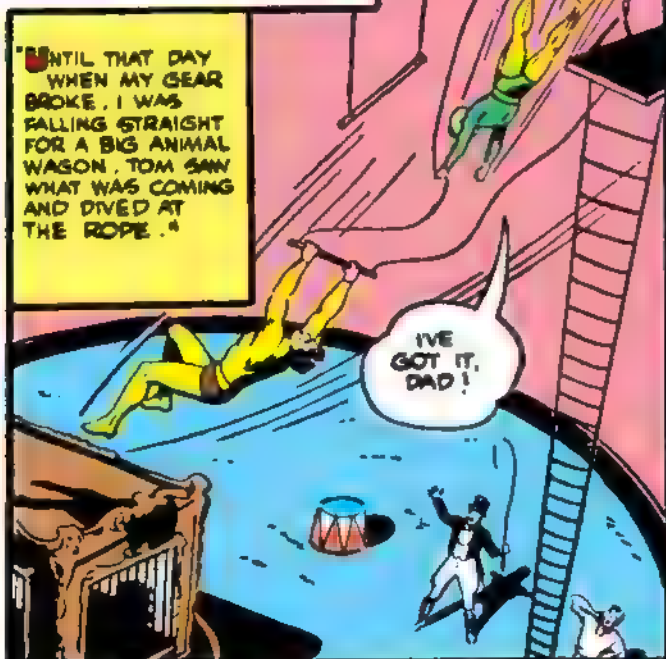
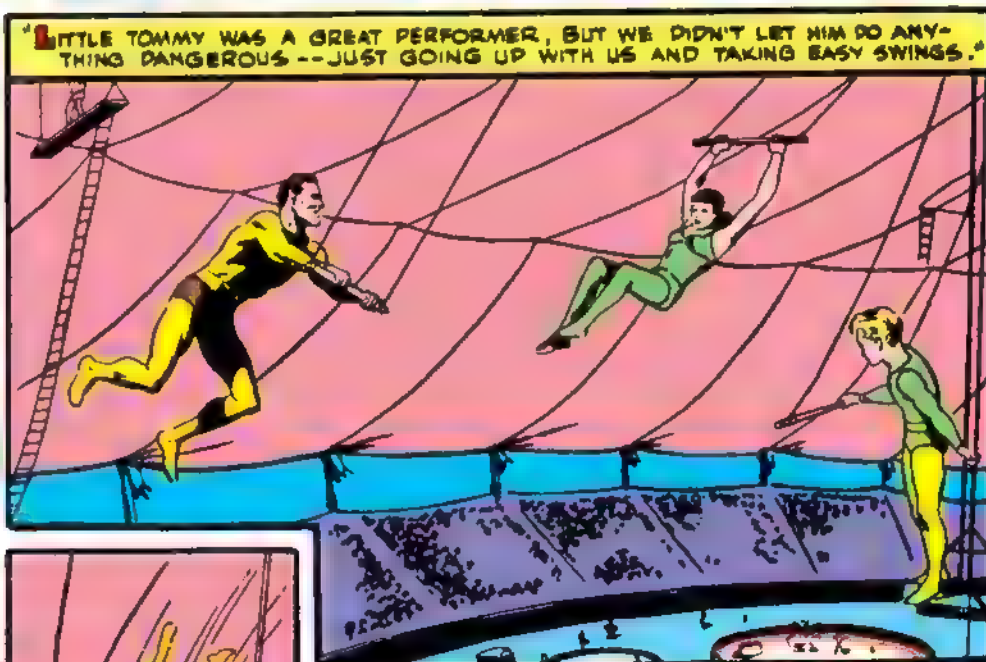
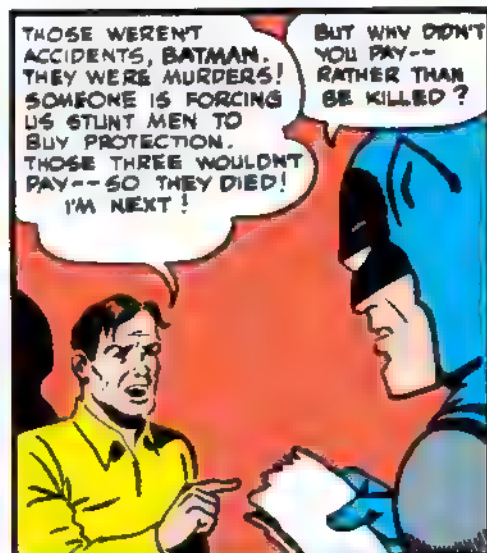
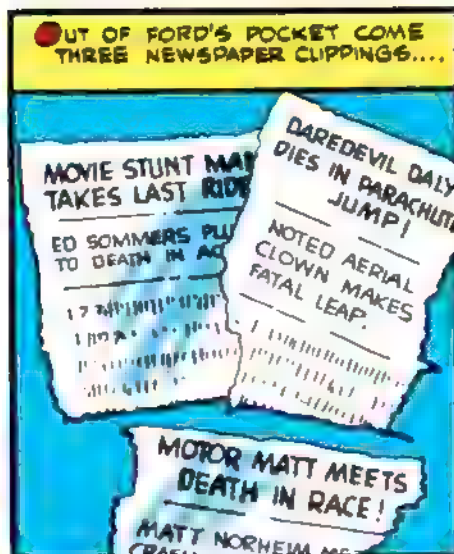
ABRUPTLY... A TREACHEROUS SALVO OF HOT LEAD!



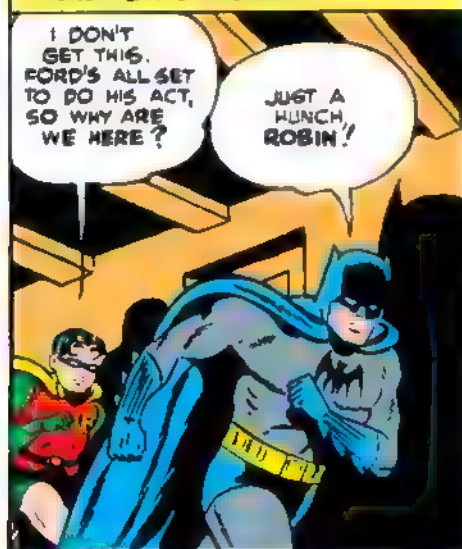
BUT OUT OF THE CRIME-FIGHTER'S BEST FLASHES A STRANGE WEAPON -- A POCKET-MIRROR!







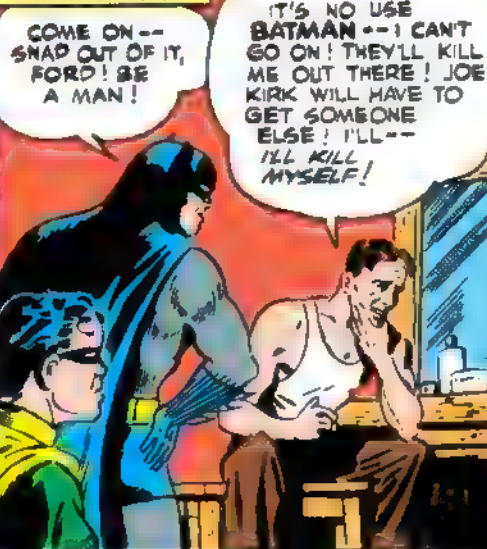
TWO NIGHTS LATER, THE HUGE GOTHAM GARDEN IS THROGGED WITH SPECTATORS. BUT BACKSTAGE...



I DON'T GET THIS. FORD'S ALL SET TO DO HIS ACT, SO WHY ARE WE HERE?

JUST A HUNCH, ROBIN!

JUST A HUNCH-- BUT THE UNDERSTANDING BATMAN IS NOT SURPRISED AT WHAT THEY FIND!



COME ON-- SNAP OUT OF IT, FORD! BE A MAN!

IT'S NO USE BATMAN-- I CAN'T GO ON! THEY'LL KILL ME OUT THERE! JOE KIRK WILL HAVE TO GET SOMEONE ELSE! I'LL-- I'LL KILL MYSELF!

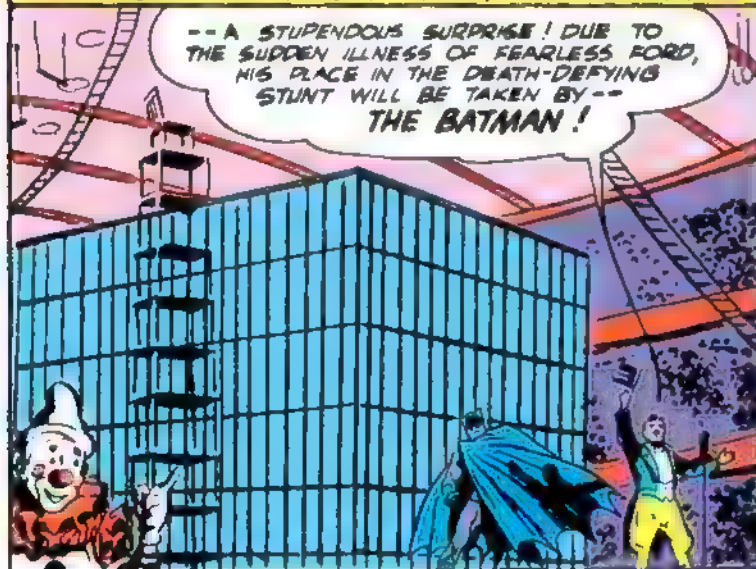
BATMAN STEPS IN QUICKLY AS FORD SPRINGS TO HIS FEET AND CLIPS HIM ON THE JAW.



SORRY-- BUT I CAN'T LET YOU DO THAT!

POOR CHAP! HE'S LOST HIS NERVE!

BUT THE SHOW MUST GO ON! AND SO, A FEW MINUTES LATER...



-- A STUPENDOUS SURPRISE! DUE TO THE SUDDEN ILLNESS OF FEARLESS FORD, HIS PLACE IN THE DEATH-DEFYING STUNT WILL BE TAKEN BY-- THE BATMAN!

DRUMS ROLL AS THE BATMAN ROCKS HIS PERILOUS PERCH TO AND FRO, TEMPTING FATE!



ROAR, LONG, ROAR! MAN HAS INVADDED YOUR DEN AND DEFIES YOU!



NOW'S THE TIME FOR THOSE KILLERS TO ATTACK!

FARTHER AND FARTHER OFF BALANCE WITH EACH HAZARDOUS TILT SEESAWS THE BATMAN!

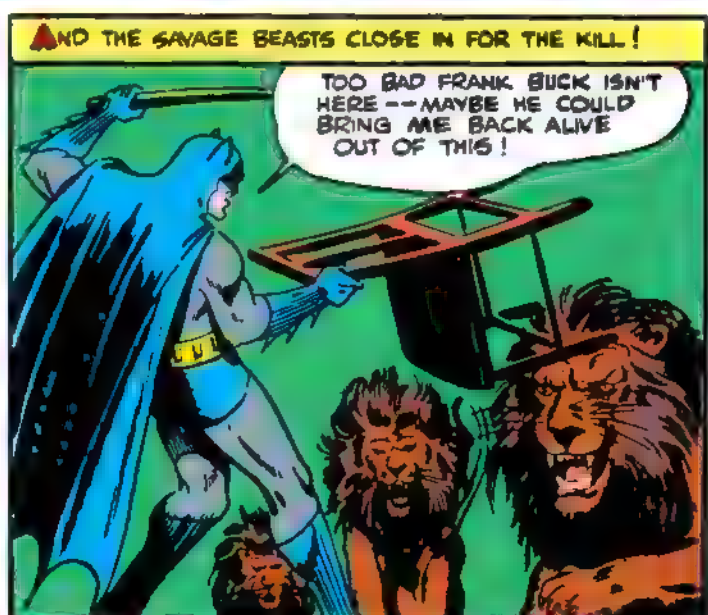
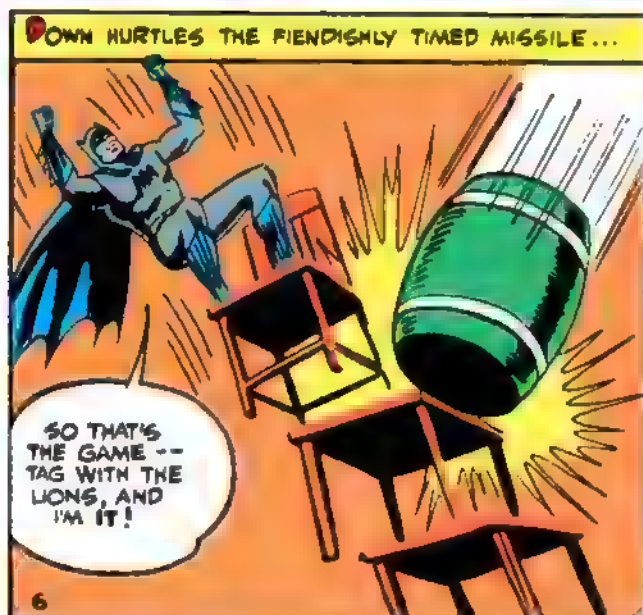
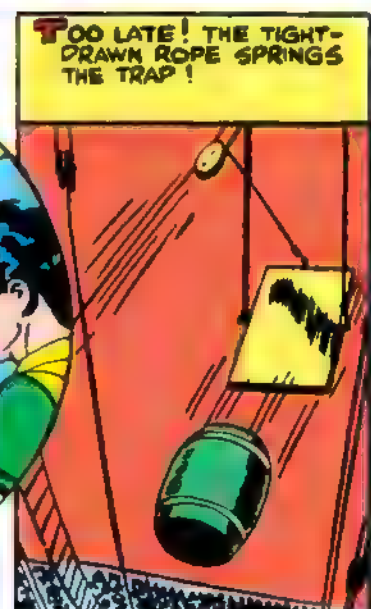


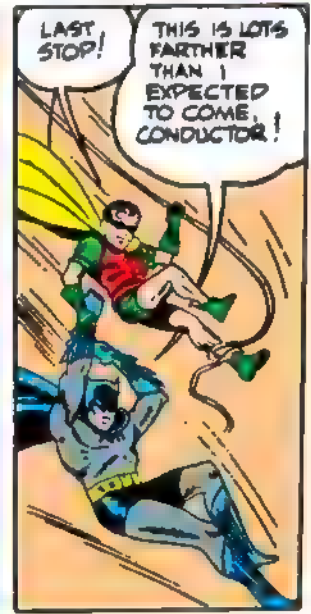
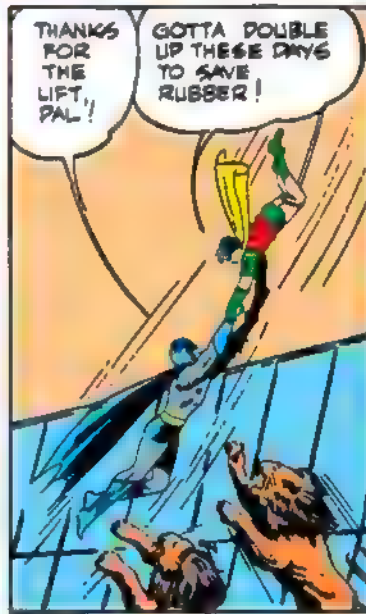
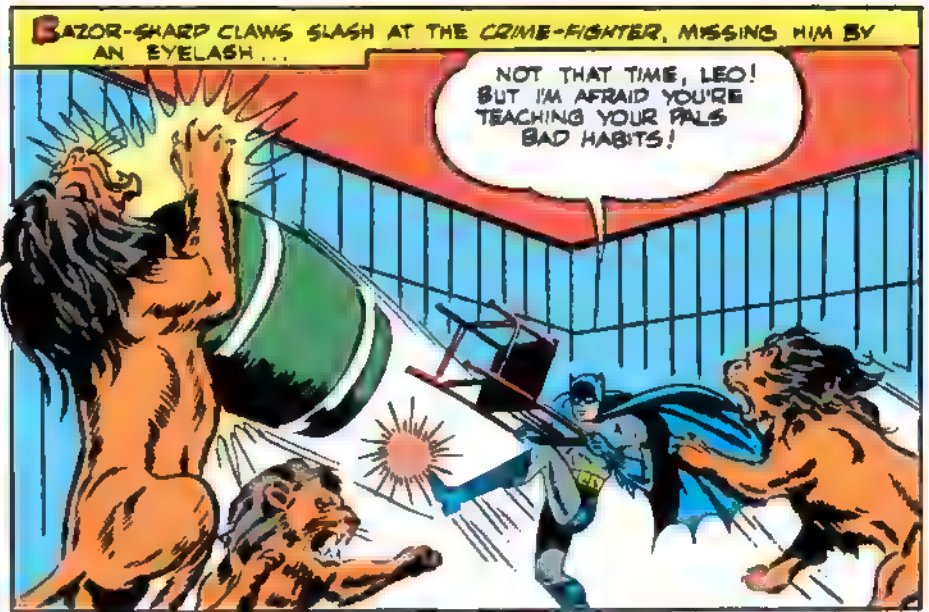
BUT HOW? AND FROM WHERE?

HIGH UP INSIDE THE ARENA, THE BOY WONDER SUDDENLY GUMPSSES A KEY TO THE ANSWER!

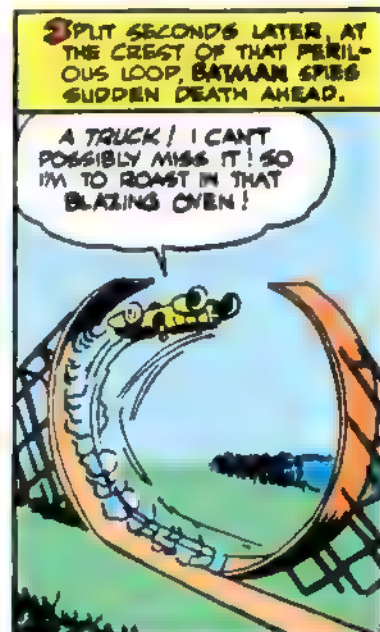
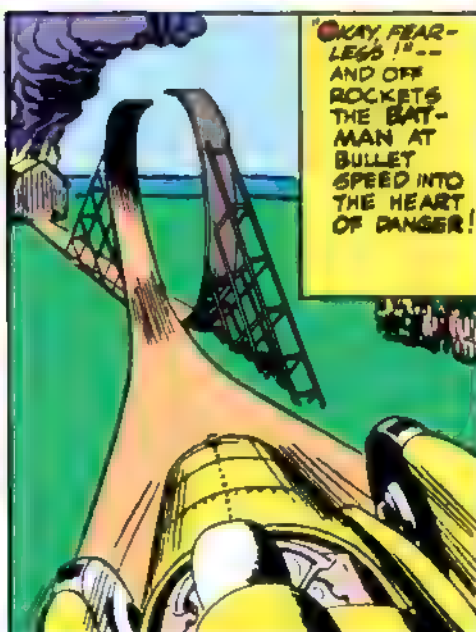


HIGH UP TOWARD THE ROOF OF THE MAMMOTH AUDITORIUM THE PROWLER LEADS!

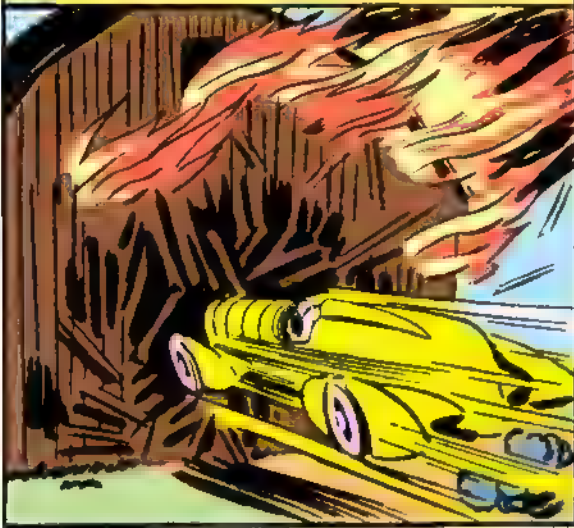




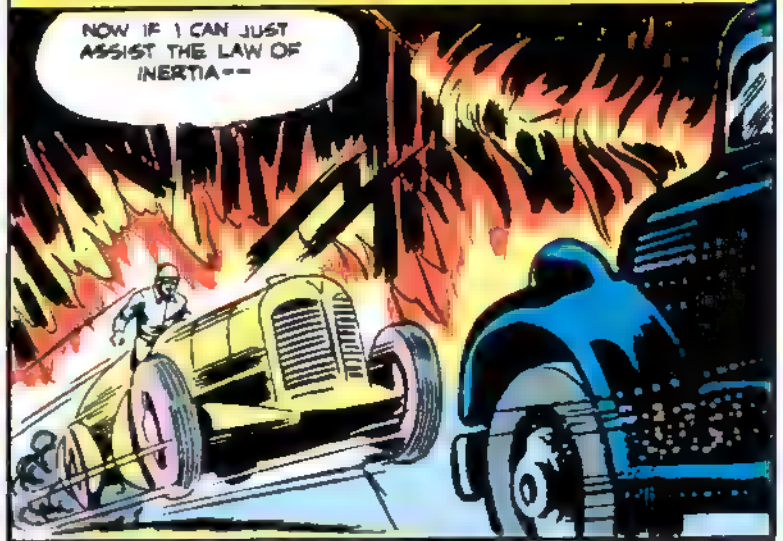
THE AFTERNOON OF THE GALA FETE AT BRUCE WAYNE'S ESTATE--AND BRUCE CALLS ON HIS STAR PERFORMER....



STRAIGHT INTO THE FIERY MAN SPURTS THE CRASH CAR...



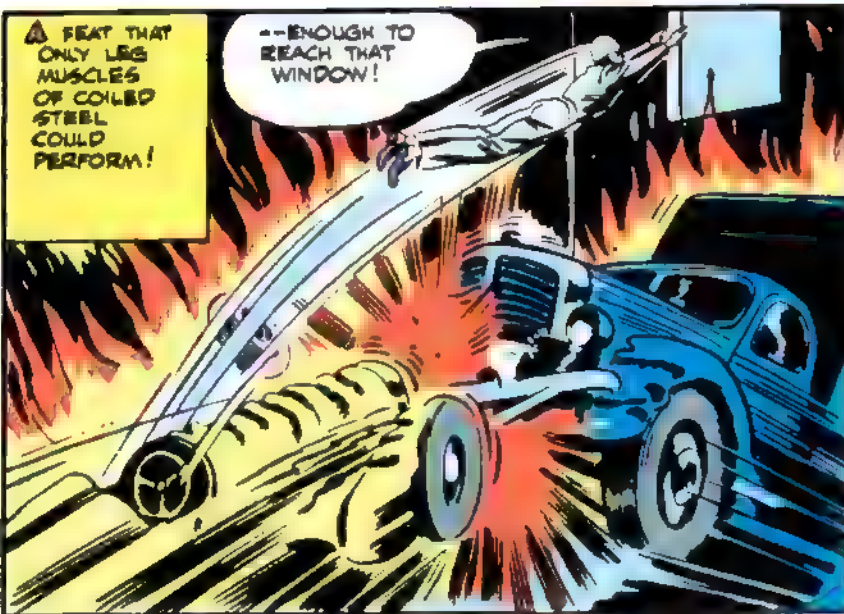
BUT EVEN IN THAT FLASHING SPLIT-SECOND A DESPERATE PLAN SPARKS FROM THE BATMAN'S DYNAMIC BRAIN!



NOW IF I CAN JUST ASSIST THE LAW OF INERTIA--

A FEAT THAT ONLY LEG MUSCLES OF COILED STEEL COULD PERFORM!

--ENOUGH TO REACH THAT WINDOW!



AND ONCE AGAIN DEATH'S CHILL FINGERS SNATCH FOR THE BATMAN IN WIN!

THE INHUMAN MONSTERS! THAT TRUCK MUST HAVE BEEN LOADED WITH GASOLINE TO SEAL FORD'S DOOM!



YEA, FEARLESS!

HURRAY FOR FEARLESS FORD!

YEA, FORD!



AND FEARLESS FORD? ALONE IN THE SHADOWS, HE WATCHES HIS HOLLOW TRIUMPH...

DEAD--THAT'S WHAT I WOULD BE NOW! BLOWN TO BITS! NO MAN COULD HAVE ESCAPED--NO MAN BUT THE BATMAN! AND I'M NO BATMAN....



THAT TRIUMPH BRINGS SWIFT CONSEQUENCES!

GREAT WORK, FORD! I'VE ANOTHER DATE FOR YOU ALREADY! SATURDAY--A HIGH DIVE AT THE FAIR GROUNDS--FOR BIG DOUGH!

OKAY--YOU'RE THE BOSS, KIRK!



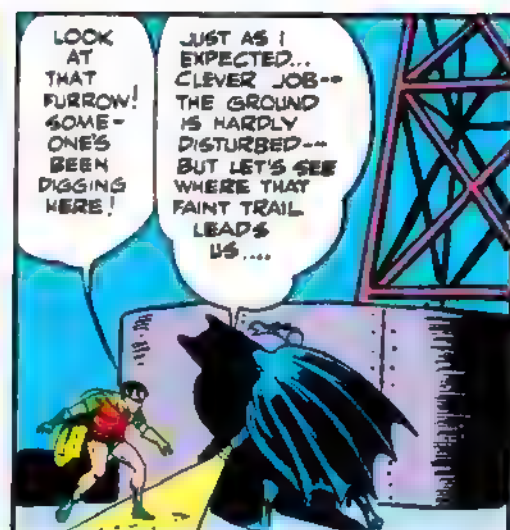
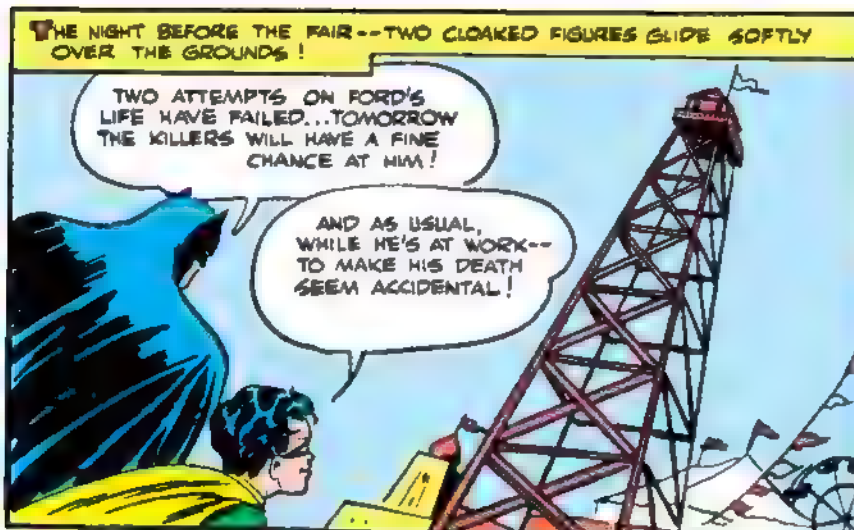
LATER...

GREAT SHOW YOU PUT ON FOR US TODAY, BRUCE!

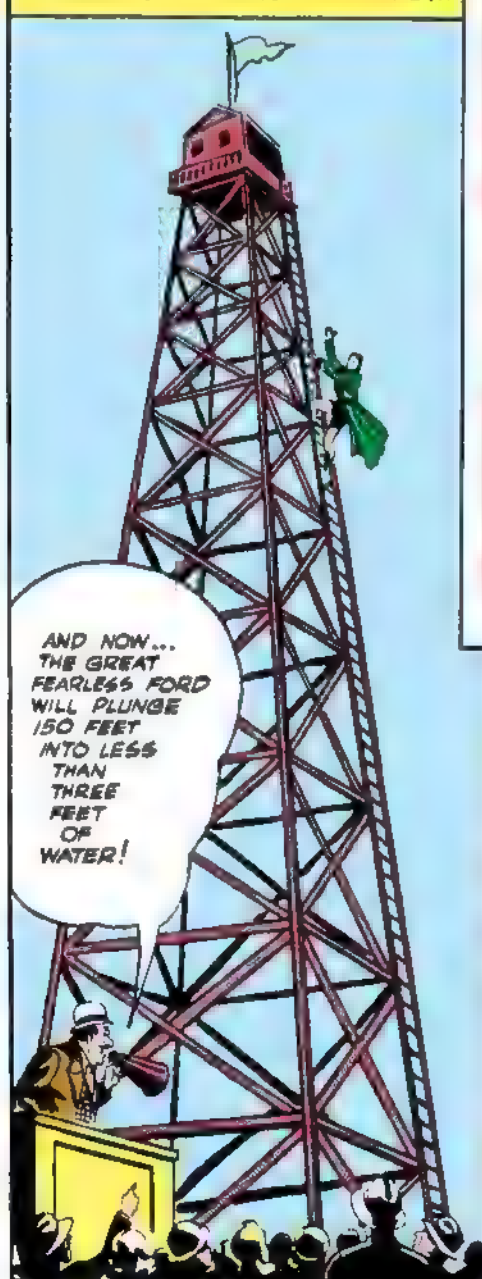
INSTEAD OF ONLY SPONSORING IT?

WOULDN'T YOU THINK BRUCE WOULD WANT TO DO SOMETHING LIKE FORD'S ACT? BRUCE WAYNE! MY DEAR, HE COULDN'T BE BOTHERED!

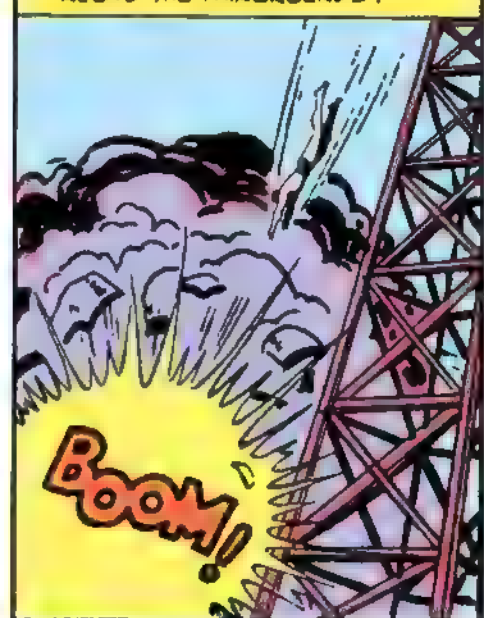




OPENING DAY AT THE FAIR...AND ONCE AGAIN A DISGUISED BATMAN PREPARES TO THRILL THOUSANDS...



AND "FEARLESS FORD" PLUNGES-- JUST AS A MIGHTY EXPLOSION ROCKS THE FAIRGROUNDS!

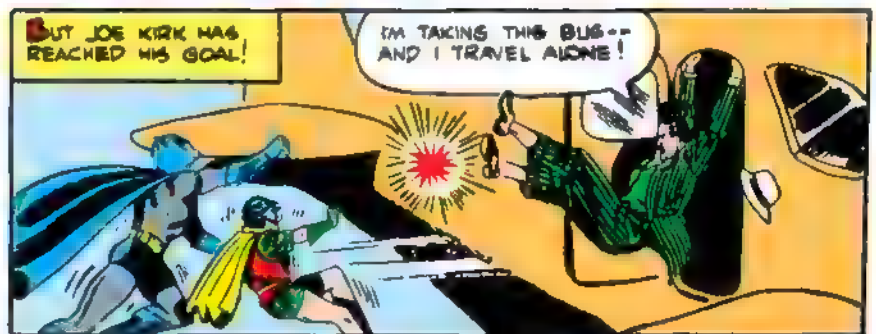
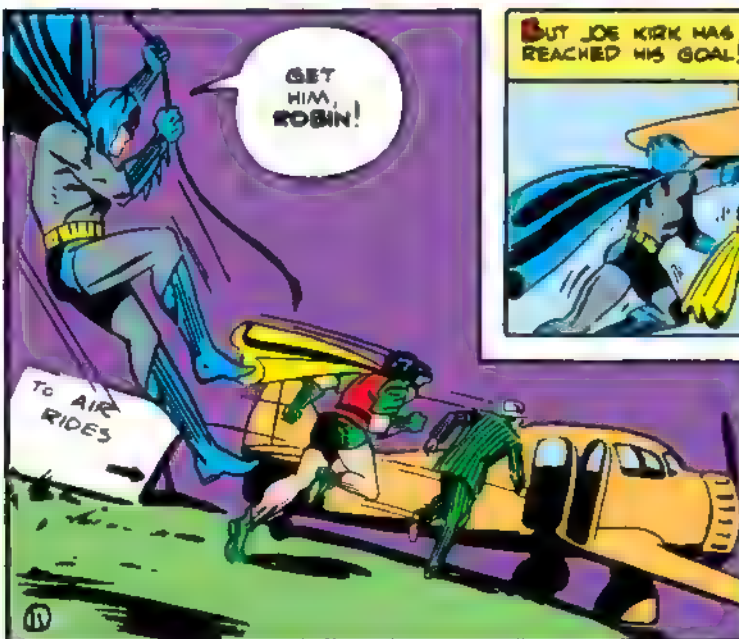
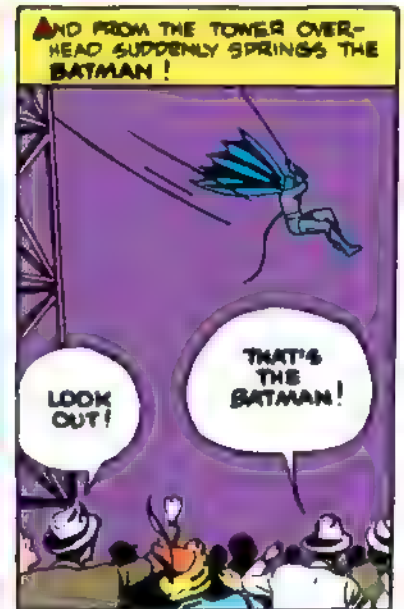
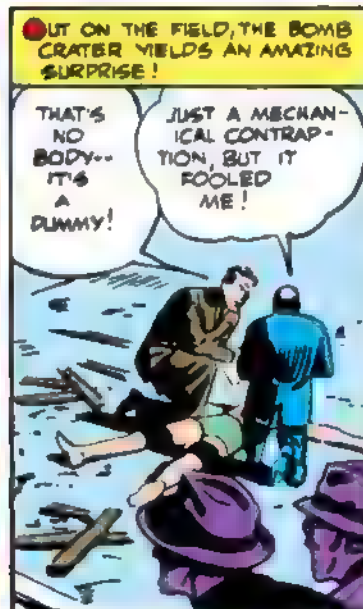
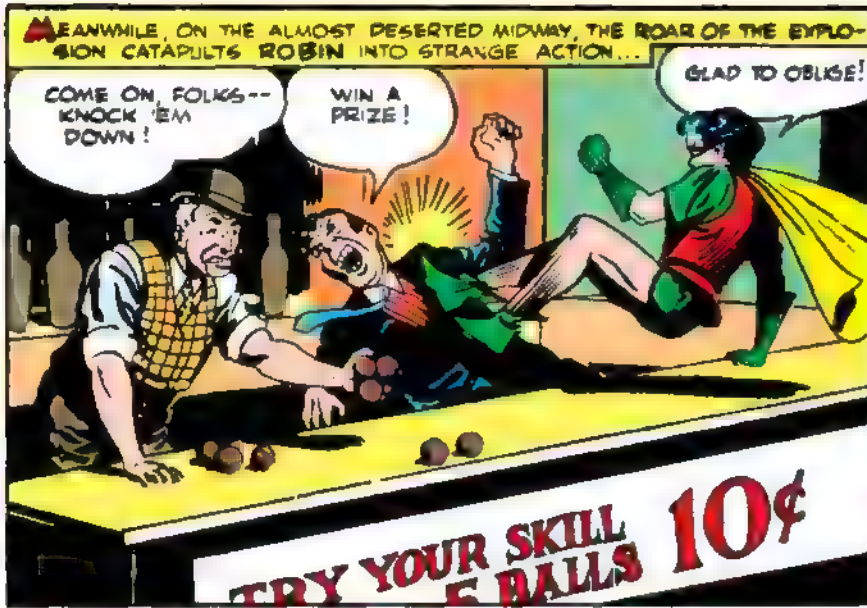


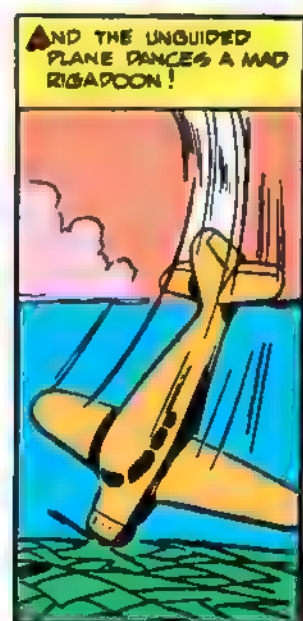
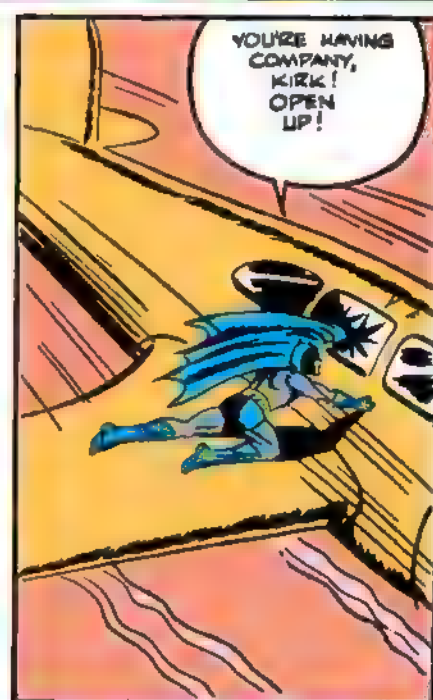
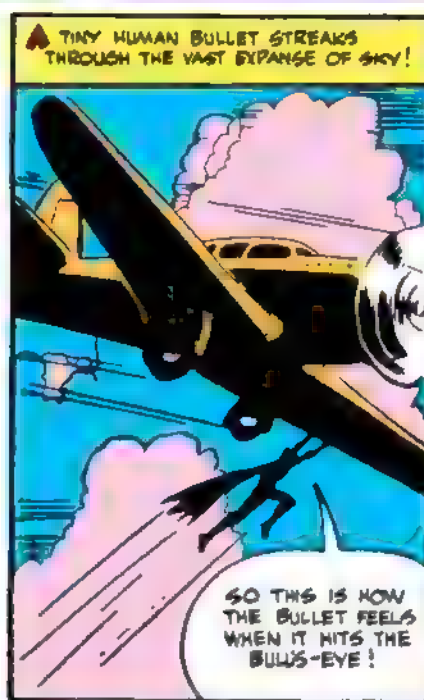
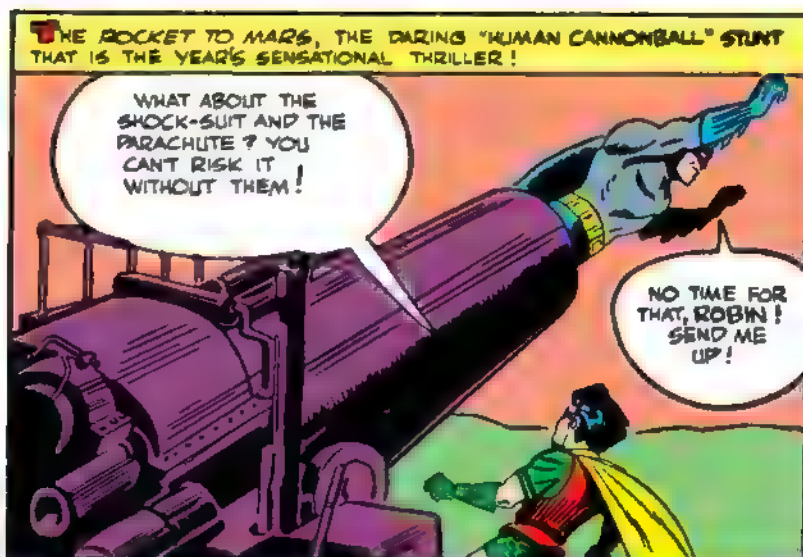
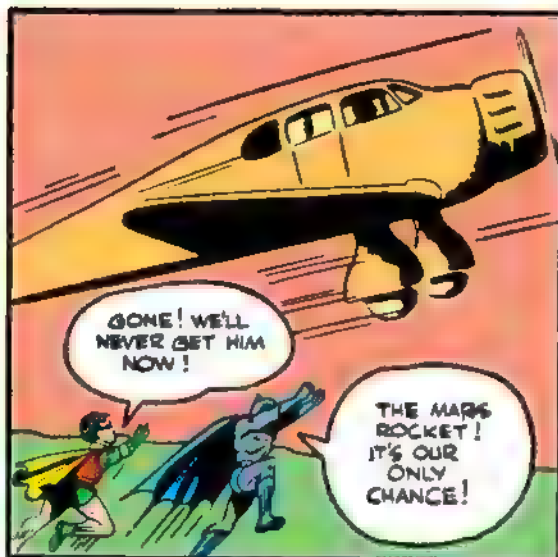
STUNNED SILENCE--UNTIL SUDDENLY A SHRILL SHRIEK SOUNDS "FORD'S" REQUIEM!

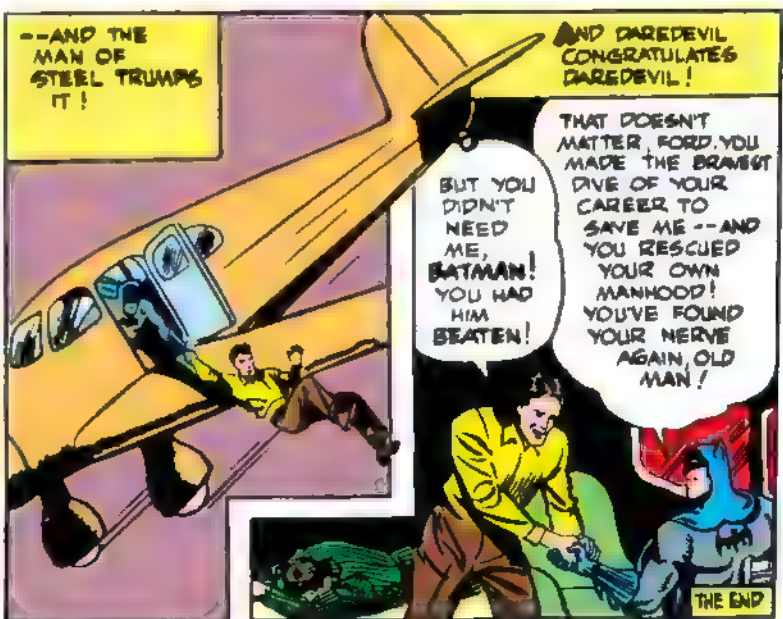
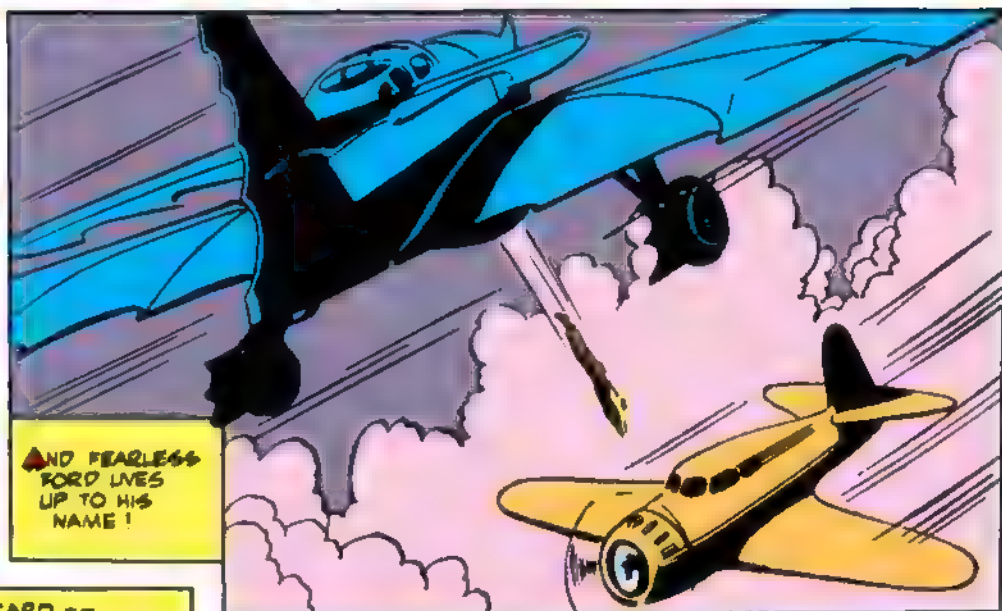
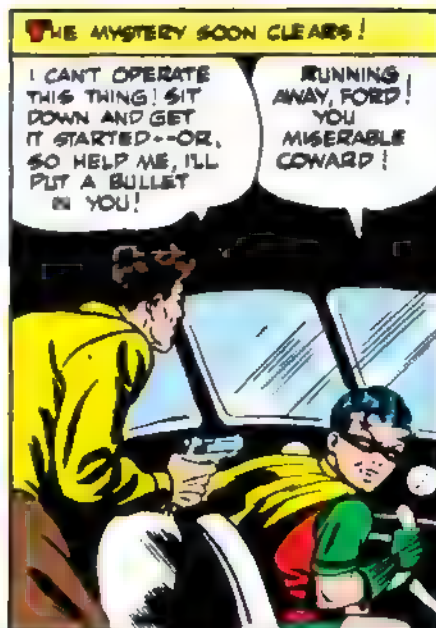


BUT THE REAL FEARLESS FORD IS FAR FROM DEATH!









BATMAN

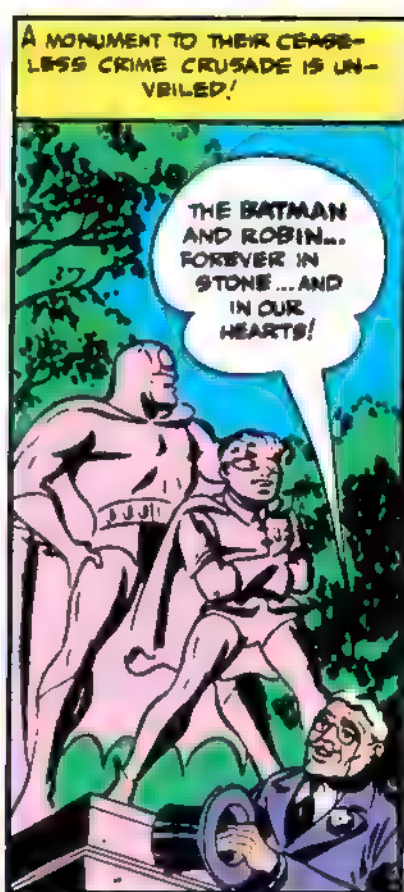
WITH
ROBIN

BOB
KANE

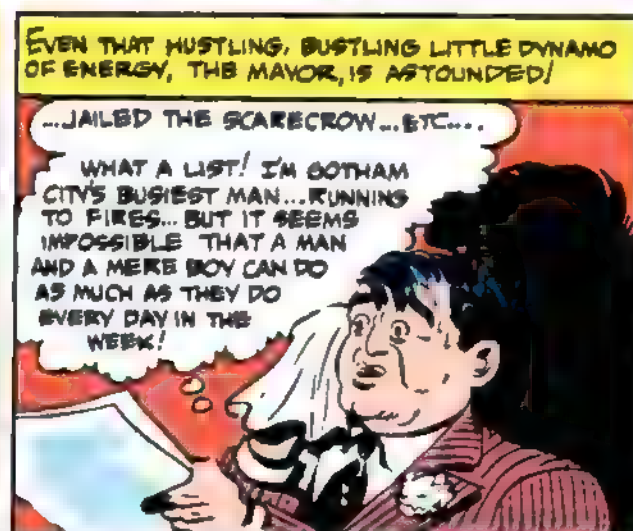
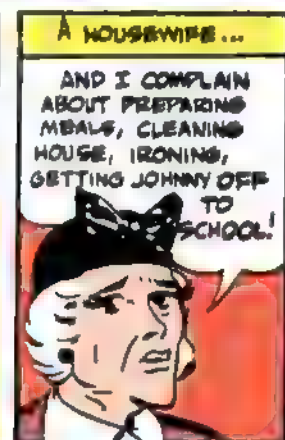
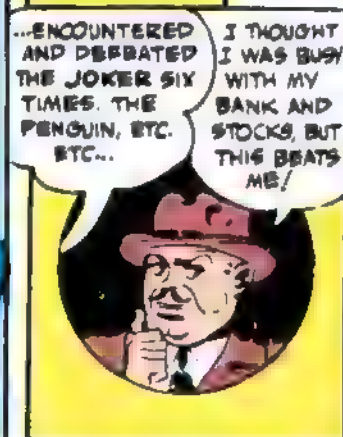
EVERY DAY, DAY IN AND DAY OUT... TWENTY-FOUR HOURS A DAY HE'S ON THE JOB. **WHO? THE BATMAN!** HE'S ALWAYS THERE... TO HELP ADVISE, CHAMPION THE WEAK, PUNISH THE WRONGS! THIS TALE IS A DAY IN THE LIFE OF THE BATMAN- HIS BREATHTAKING, HEADLINE-MAKING EXPLOITS. AND, TOO, ALL THOSE MANY PERSONAL INCIDENTS IN HIS DAILY LIFE YOU'VE NEVER HEARD ABOUT... THAT PAINSTAKING ROUTINE, THOSE SCIENTIFIC HABITS THAT GO TO MAKE THE BATMAN ALL HE IS... AND MORE! YES, THIS IS THE STORY... AND THERE CAN BE ONLY ONE NAME FOR IT... **"AROUND THE CLOCK WITH the Batman!"**

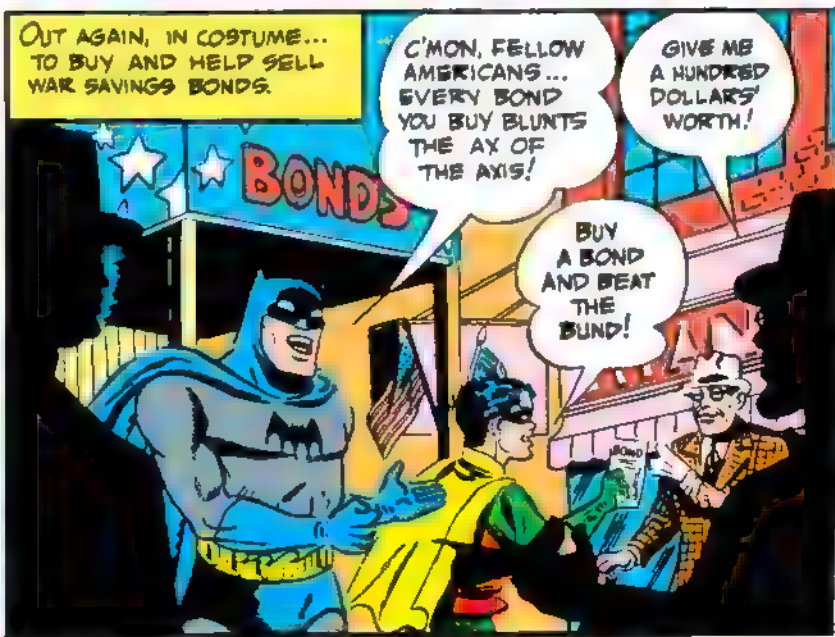
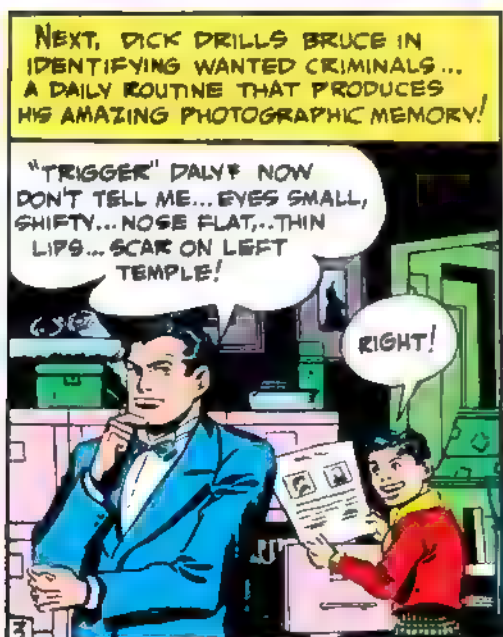
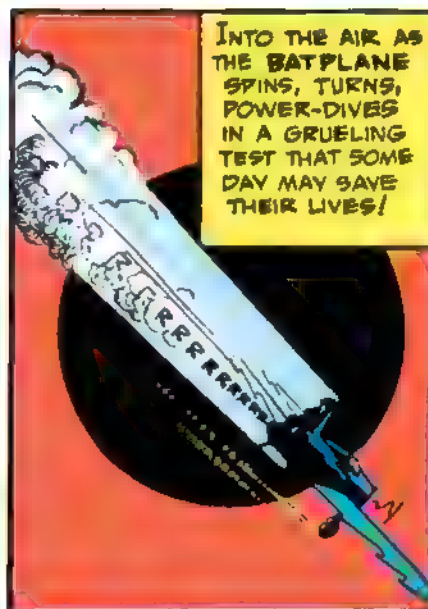
THE GIANT PRESSES ROLL OUT AN EXTRA... FOR THIS IS A NEWS-MAKING DAY IN GOTHAM CITY!!

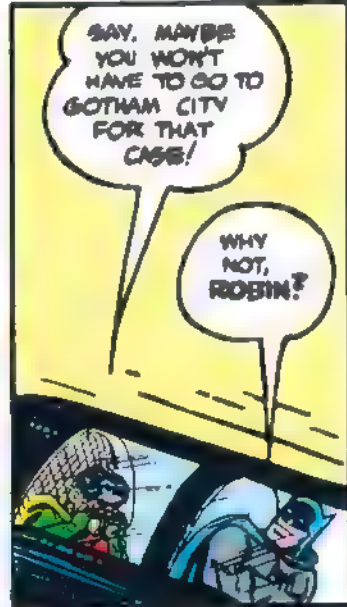
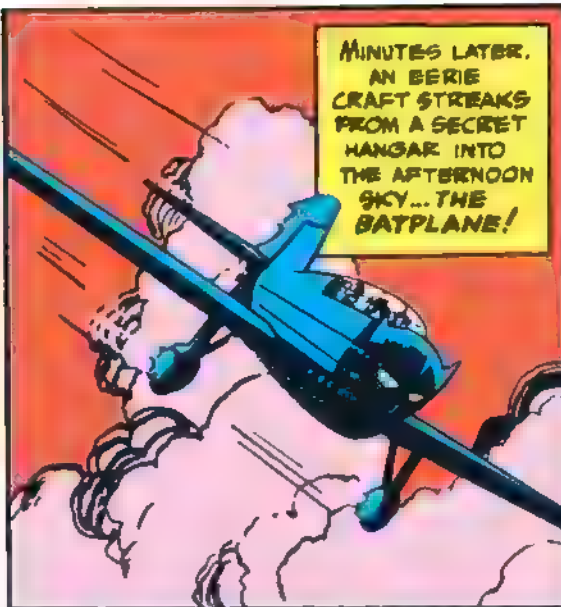
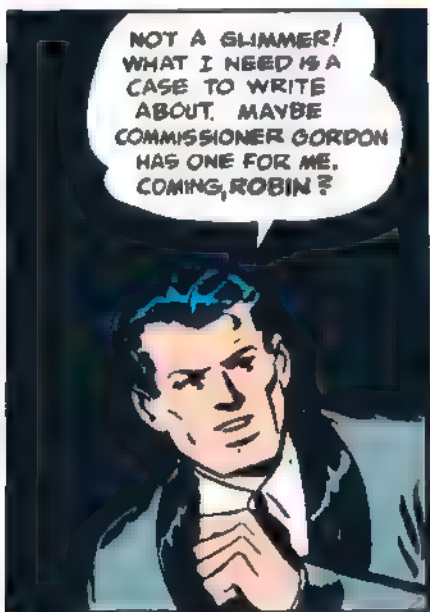
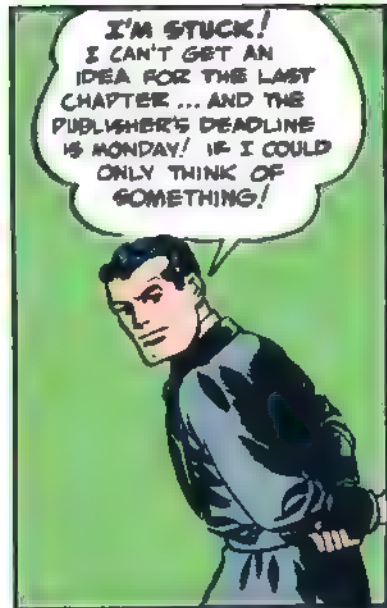
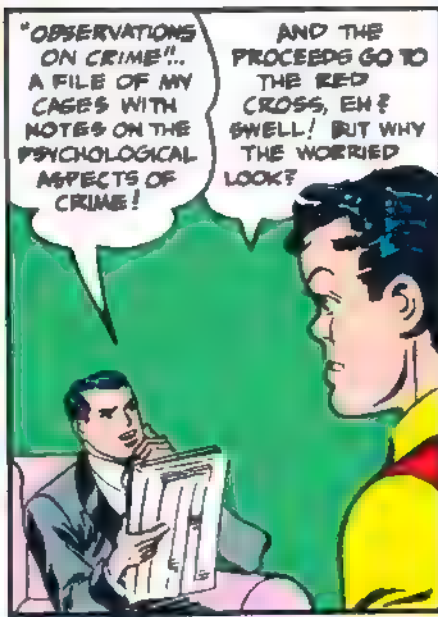
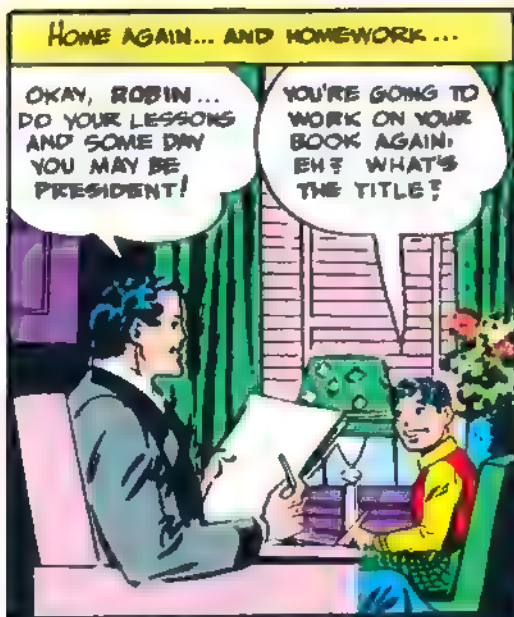


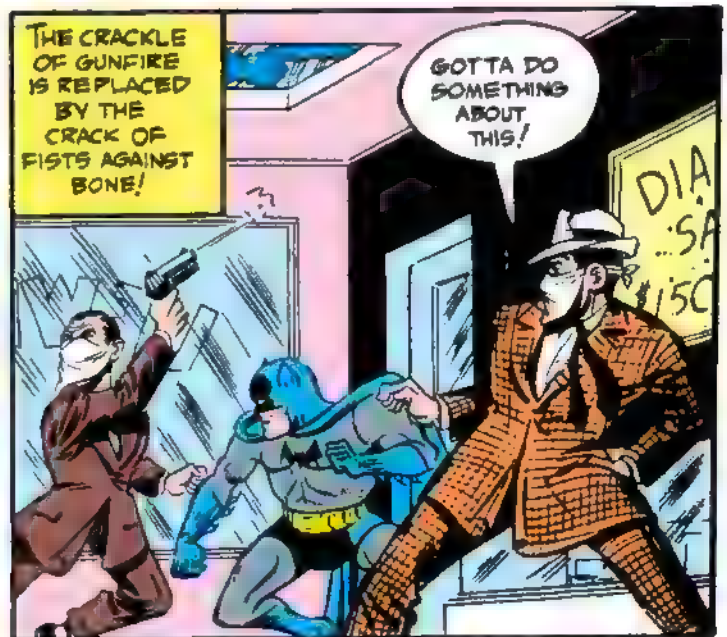
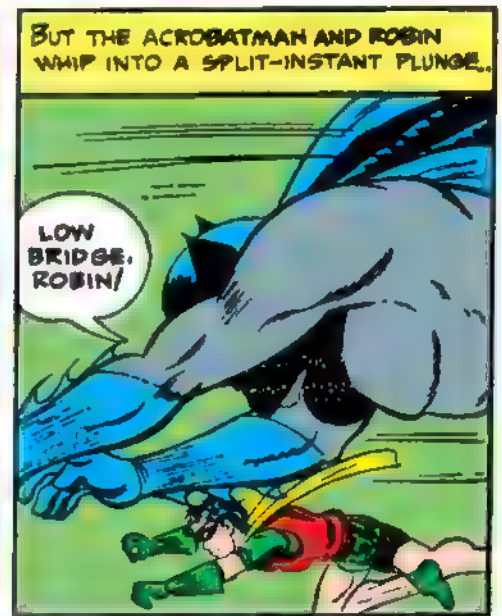
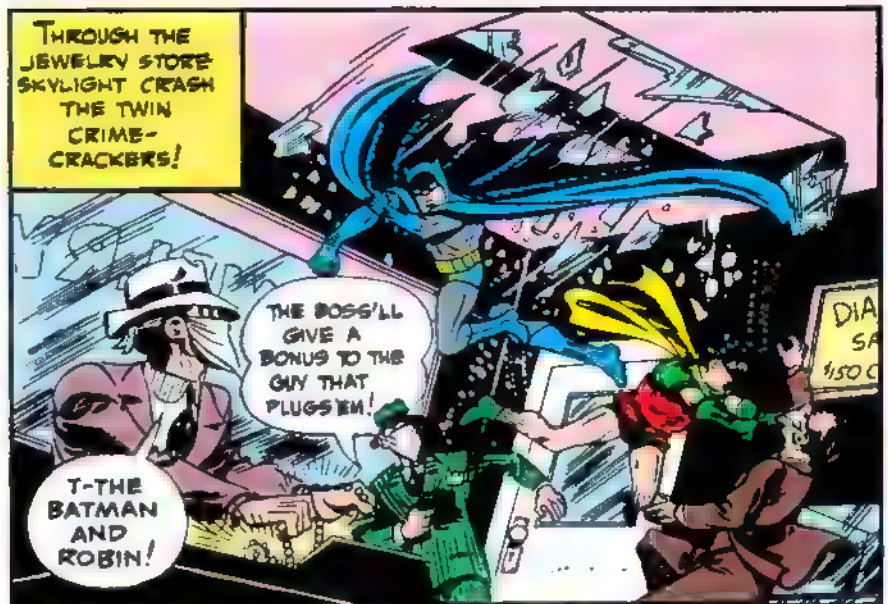
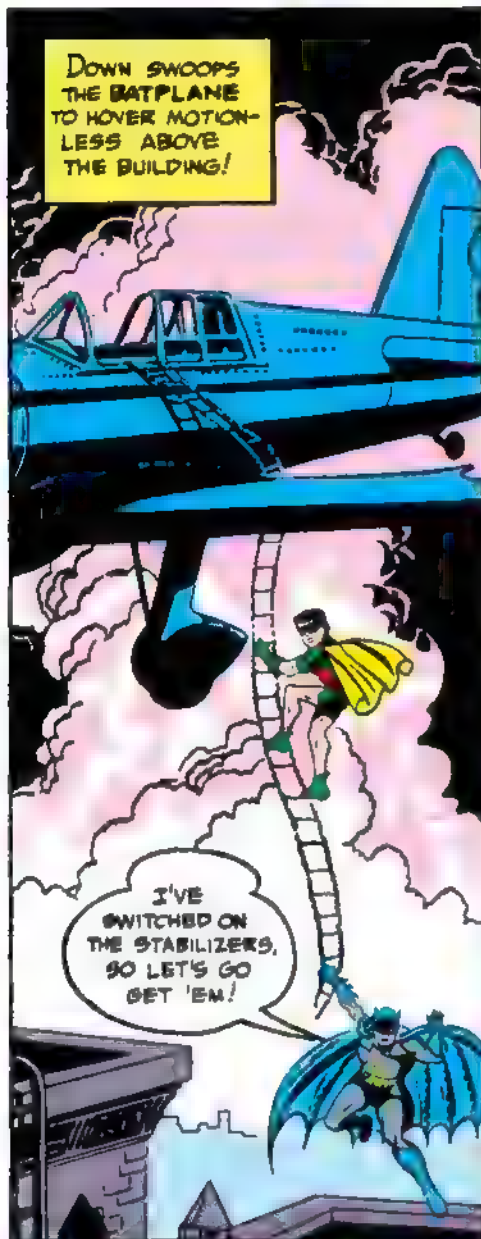


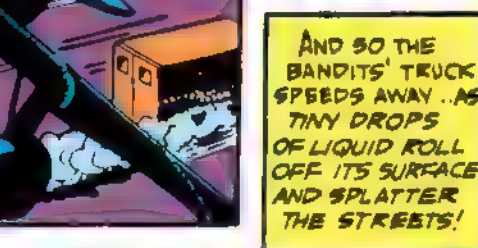
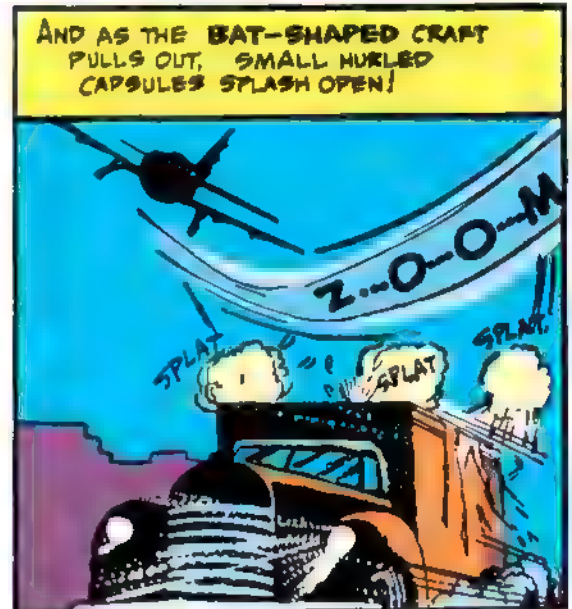
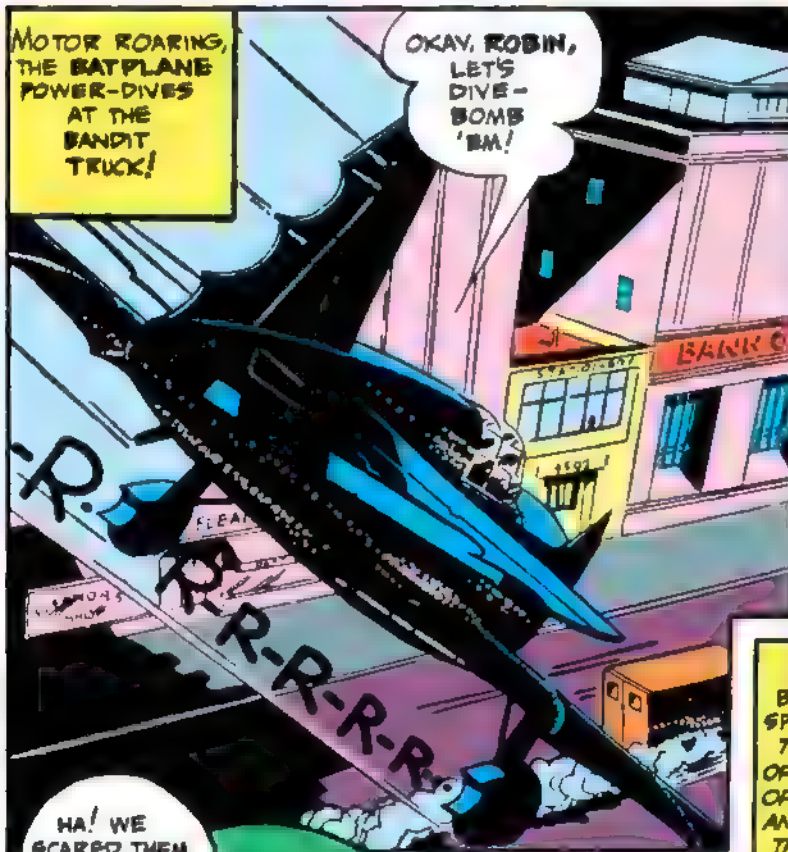
THE CROWD LISTENS IN AWE AND ALMOST DISBELIEF TO THE LONG LIST OF AMAZING FACTS! A BANKER...









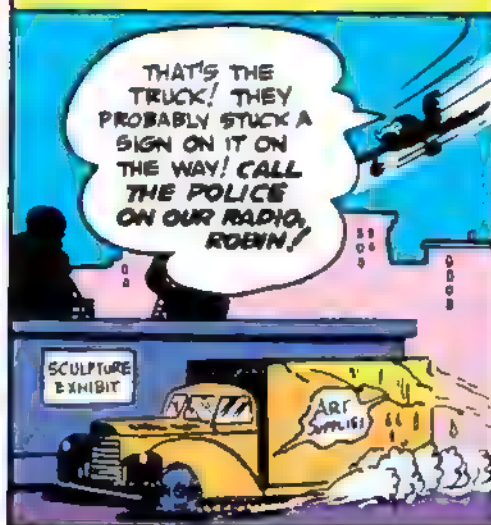


AND...MIRACLE OF SCIENCE...
SEEN THRU THE INFRARED
LINES, THE CHEMICALLY TREAT-
ED LIQUID GLOWS WEIRDLY!



PRETTY EASY
TO TRAIL
THEM NOW
WITHOUT THE
BANDIT'S
KNOWLEDGE!

SOME TIME LATER, THE TRAIL ENDS
AT AN OUTDOOR SCULPTURE SHOW!



THAT'S THE
TRUCK! THEY
PROBABLY STUCK A
SIGN ON IT ON
THE WAY! CALL
THE POLICE
ON OUR RADIO,
ROBIN!

FOUR INDIGNANT MEN ARE
TAKEN INTO CUSTODY!

NOTHING IN
THE TRUCK BUT
ART SUPPLIES,
GARGE!

SURE! THAT'S
OUR BUSINESS...
A LEGITIMATE
ONE! WE'RE
NOT
ROBBERS!



THIS IS MR.
HODGE,
THE ART
CONNOISSEUR.
HE SAYS
THESE MEN
ARE
OKAY!

YES, WE BUY
MATERIALS FROM THEM
BECAUSE THEIR
PRICES ARE LOW!

IF THE JEWELS AREN'T
IN THE TRUCK, THEY
MUST BE IN THE
SCULPTURE
EXHIBIT!



SOME TIME LATER...
AN OLD COUPLE JOINS
THE SCULPTURE
SHOW'S SPECTATORS!



MY, HOW
GIGANTIC!
TELL ME, SIR,
WHY DID YOU MAKE
THOSE EYES SO LARGE
AND SO DEEP?

THIS PIECE
REPRESENTS AN
INDIAN HYPNOTIST,
AND IT SYMBOLIZES
HIS DEEP HYPNOTIC
EYES!

EVERYONE HERE
SEEMS TO BE A
GENUINELY FINE
SCULPTOR...TO
JUDGE BY
THESE PIECES!

NOTHING
MONEY ABOUT
THEM! MAYBE THIS
ISN'T THE
JEWEL CACHE
AFTER ALL!



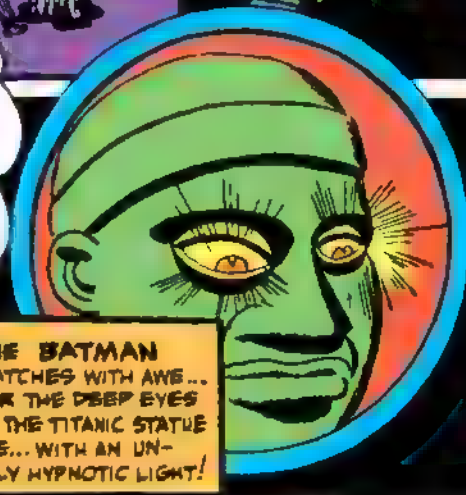
YES...THESE
TWO ARE NONE
OTHER THAN
BATMAN AND
ROBIN IN
DISGUISE!

WHAT'S
UP?

WHEN I
STOOD
HERE A
MINUTE AGO,
IT SEEMED
AS IF THE EYES
IN THAT STATUE
LOOKED ALIVE!
THERE! SEE
IT!



THE BATMAN
WATCHES WITH AWE...
FOR THE DEEP EYES
OF THE TITANIC STATUE
BLAZE... WITH AN UN-
EARTHLY HYPNOTIC LIGHT!



Abruptly...
DISGUISES
ARE DISCARDED...
AND THE
DYNAMIC DUO
SPRINGS
FORWARD...



B-BATMAN
AND
R-ROBIN!

YES...WE'VE
COME BACK
FOR THE
JEWELS!



YOU...
YOU'LL
NEVER
GET
THEM!

WHAT'LL
YOU
BET?

EVEN AS THE
BANDITS SCRAMBLE
UP LADDERS,
THE BATMAN
DIVES FROM HIS
PERCH...



SUDDENLY LEAD WHINES, SMACKS INTO
STONE, AND SENDS THE CHIPS BITING
INTO THE DUO'S FACES!



I HAD A
HUNCH WE
SHOULDA COME
BACK! TWO OF
YOU GUYS CLIMB
UP THE LADDER
AND BLAST THE
BATMAN OFF
THERE!

... AND SLAMS INTO A TRIGGER-
MAD THUG!



KEEP
'EM
FLYING!

WHILE YOUNG
ROBIN
TRIES TO
KEEP CRIME
FROM THE
WORLD!



YOU'RE
ONE GUY
WHO HAS
NO PLACE
ON HERE!

THEN...THE WAIL OF A POLICE SIREN!

WHEEEEEEEEE

COPS! THIS IS NO PLACE FOR US! C'MON, LET'S BEAT IT!

BUT ALREADY ROBIN RIDES A SCAFFOLD LADDER THAT ARCS DOWN...

...AND SNARES THE HOODLUMS WHILE HE BREAKS HIS FALL WITH AN OLD CIRCUS STUNT!

THE POLICE TAKE OVER...

OUR SCULPTOR FRIEND WAS USING THIS SHOW AS A HIDEOUT FOR STOLEN GEMS. HIS MEN POSED AS ART SUPPLY DEALERS!

BUT WHERE ARE THE GEMS?

HIGH ATOP A SCAFFOLD, THE BATMAN REACHES INTO THE STONE INDIAN'S EYES, AND...

THE JEWELS!

WHEN I SAW THE STATUE'S EYES BLAZE WITH LIGHT, I REALIZED THEN THAT ONLY JEWELS HIDDEN IN THE EYES COULD CAUSE THAT SPARKLE...WHEN THEY WERE STRUCK BY SUNLIGHT!

GENTLEMEN, THE SCULPTURE SHOW IS SPONSORED BY A CONSERVATIVE PATRON. THIS UNFAVORABLE PUBLICITY WOULD PUT US IN A BAD LIGHT... HE MIGHT WITHDRAW HIS SUPPORT!

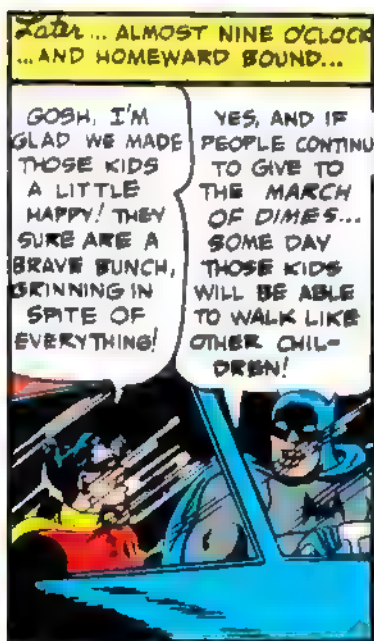
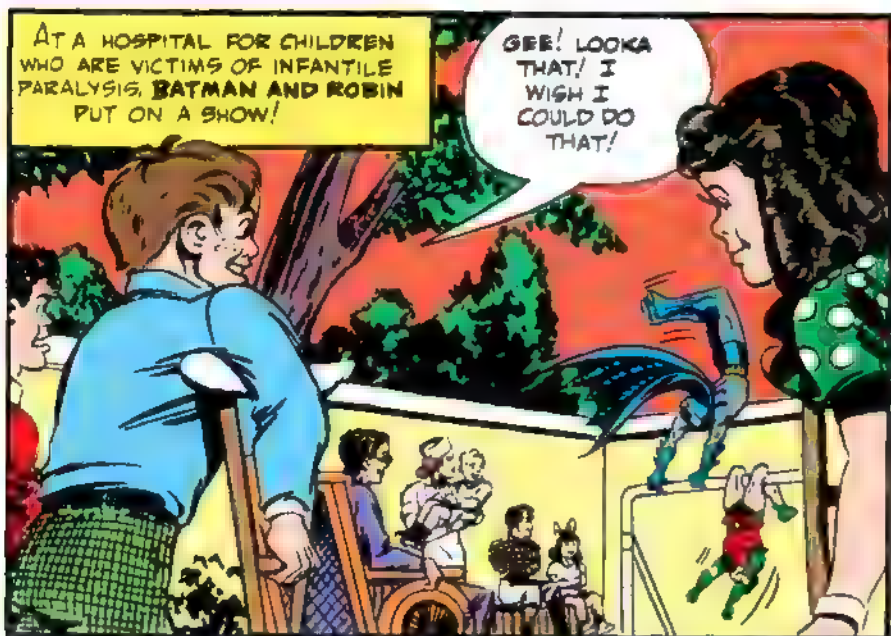
DON'T WORRY, I'LL SEE THAT THIS IS KEPT OUT OF THE PAPERS!

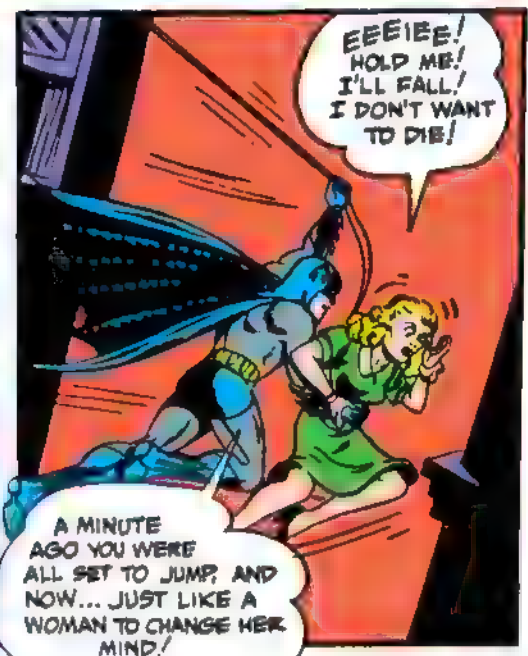
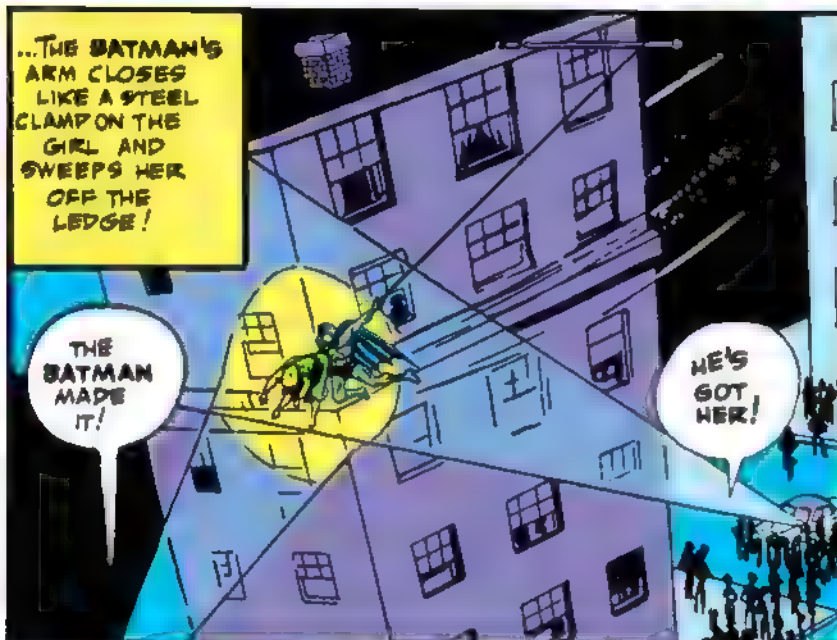
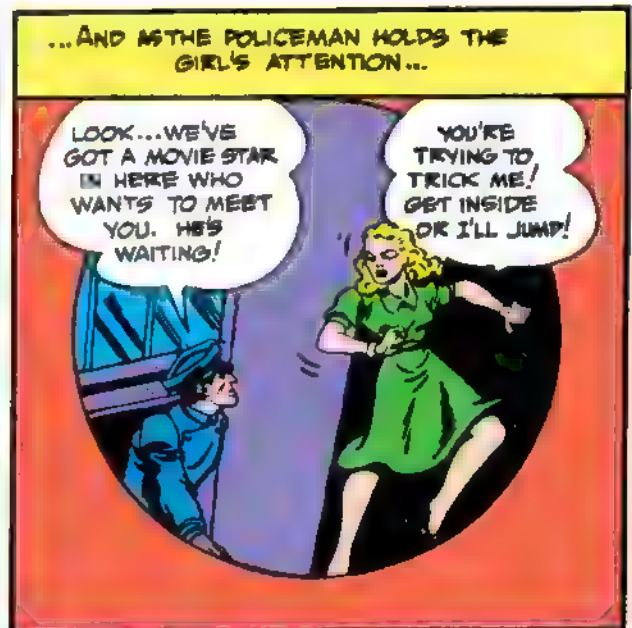
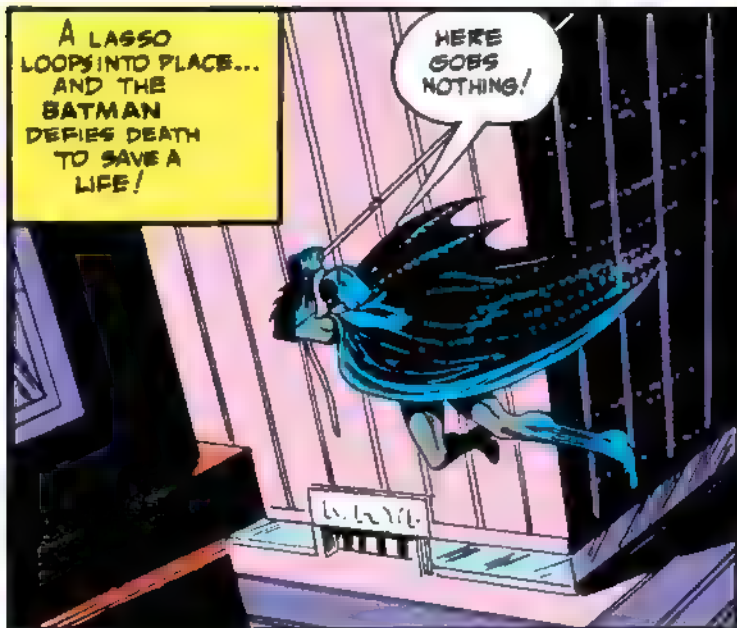
LATER, IN THE BATMOBILE...

WELL, NOW YOU CAN WRITE THIS STORY UP FOR THE LAST CHAPTER OF YOUR BOOK!

NO, ROBIN... IT WOULD HURT THE HONEST SCULPTORS AND THE SHOW! THEIR ART MUST BE PROTECTED! BUT... NOW WE'VE A DATE AT A HOSPITAL!

DON'T THINK THE DAY IS OVER YET... THIS IS ONLY THE BEGINNING, FOLKS... ONLY THE BEGINNING!





BACK AT HER ROOM, THE GIRL RECEIVES A CALL...

HELLO? OH, IT'S YOU, "HEIST"... HOW DID IT GO?

OKAY! YOU WERE SWELL! WE MADE A BIG HAUL! I'M GONNA CUT YOU IN FER A BIG SHARE!

BUT THE CALLER... IS THE BATMAN, IMITATING THE VOICE OF "HEIST" ANDREWS!

SO SHE WAS IN ON IT!

WE'RE AT THE HIDEOUT! COME NOW IF YOU WANT YOUR SHARE!

...BE RIGHT OVER!

SOMETIME LATER, THE GIRL'S CAR SLIDES TO A HALT BEFORE A RAM-SHACKLE OLD BUILDING... BUT FOLLOWING CLOSE BEHIND... THE BATMOBILE!

MARGIE! WHAT ARE YOU DOIN' HERE?

WHY... YOU JUST CALLED ME... YOU TOLD ME TO COME OUT!

I NEVER PHONED! YOU FOOL... THIS IS A TRAP! HUH?

TOO TRUE, "HEIST"... TOO TRUE!

SCREAMING SLUGS RICOCHET OFF ROBIN'S IMPROVISED SHIELD...

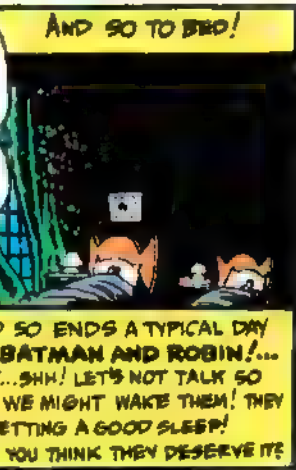
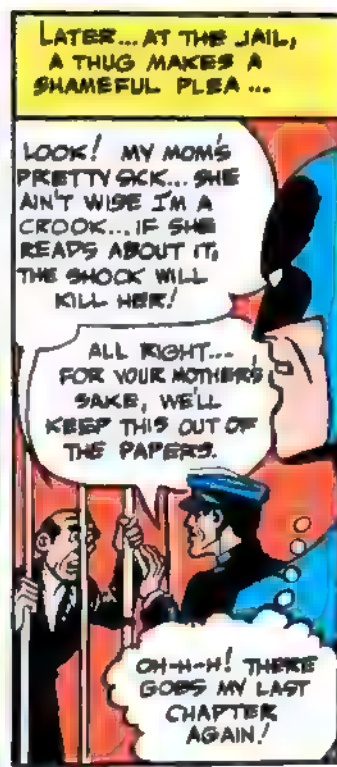
...AND THE GENT WINS A CIGAR!

SORRY, BUT... THIS IS WHERE I DIG IN!

... AND THEN A SHIELD BECOMES A WEAPON!

INTO THE BANDITS LUNGES THE HARD-HITTING TEAM!

PLUG 'EM! FEED 'EM LEAD!

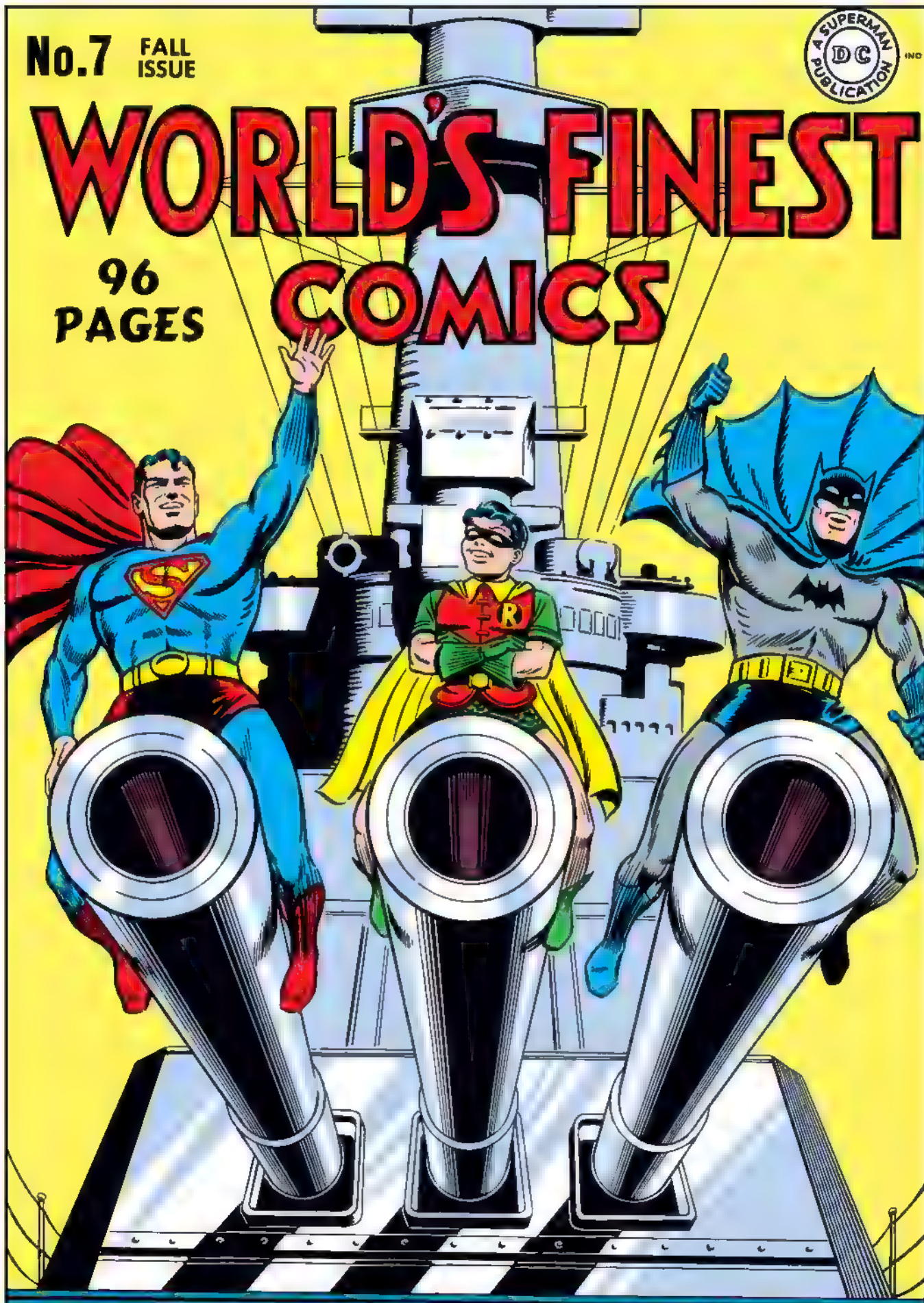


No.7 FALL
ISSUE



WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

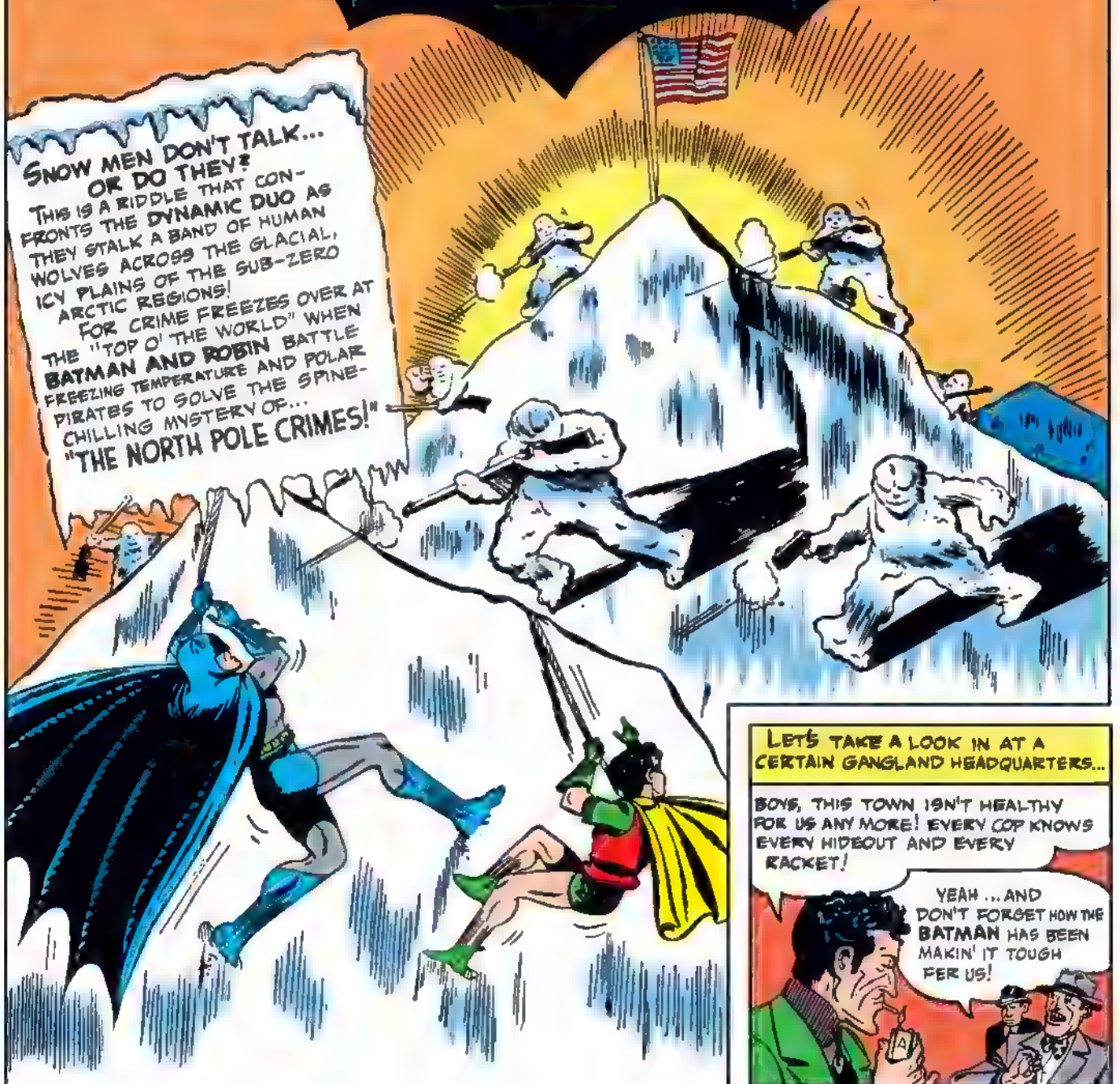
96
PAGES



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

SNOW MEN DON'T TALK...
OR DO THEY?
THIS IS A RIDDLE THAT CON-
FRONTS THE DYNAMIC DUO AS
THEY STALK A BAND OF HUMAN
WOLVES ACROSS THE GLACIAL,
ICY PLAINS OF THE SUB-ZERO
ARCTIC REGIONS!
FOR CRIME FREEZES OVER AT
THE "TOP O' THE WORLD" WHEN
BATMAN AND ROBIN BATTLE
FREEZING TEMPERATURE AND POLAR
PIRATES TO SOLVE THE SPINE-
CHILLING MYSTERY OF...
"THE NORTH POLE CRIMES!"

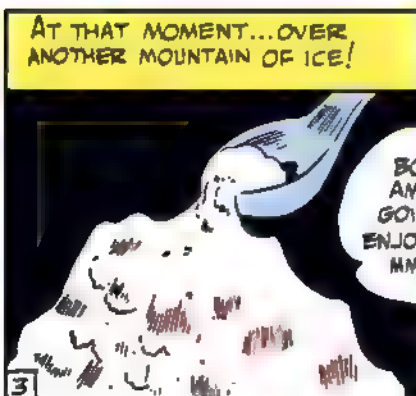
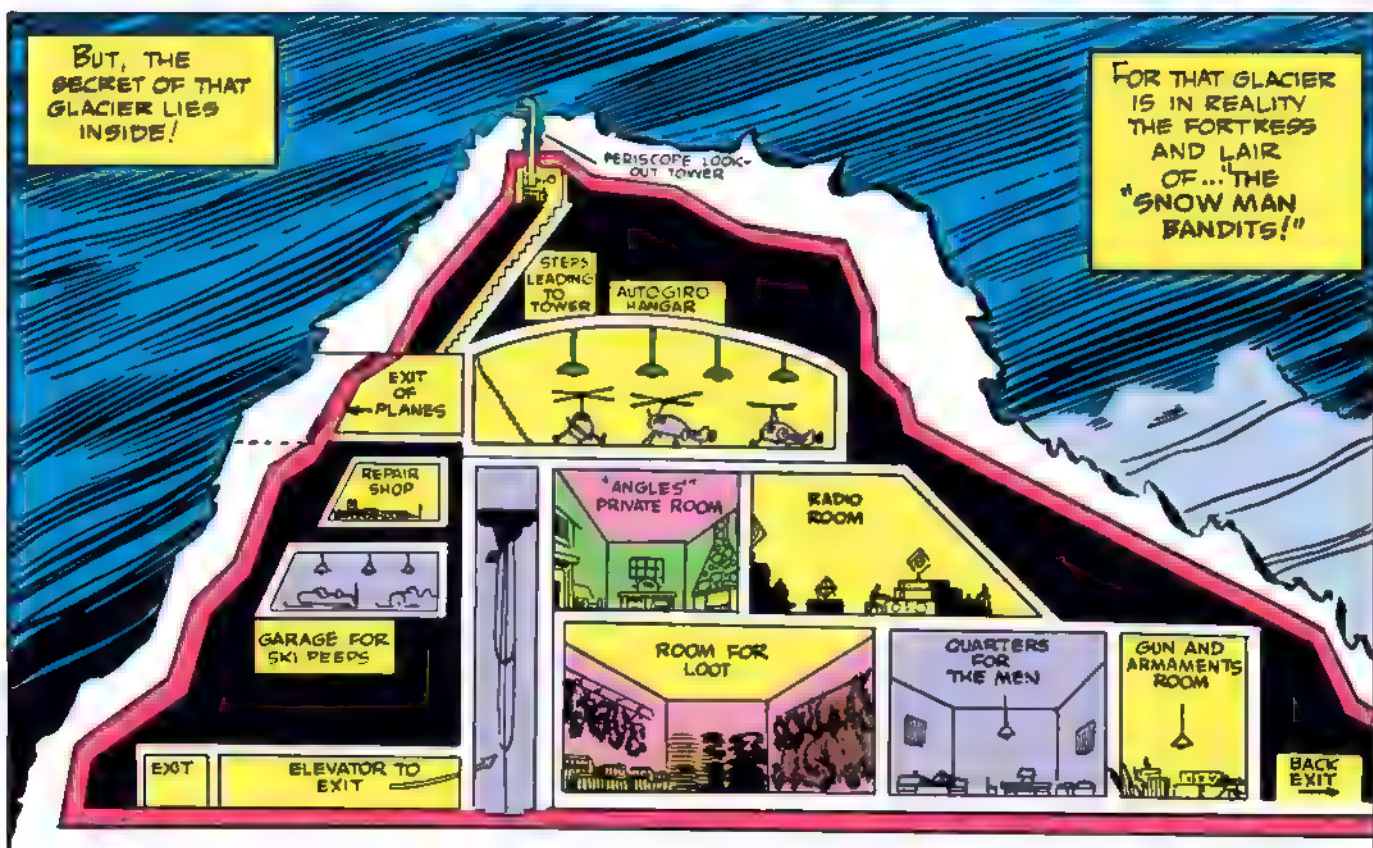
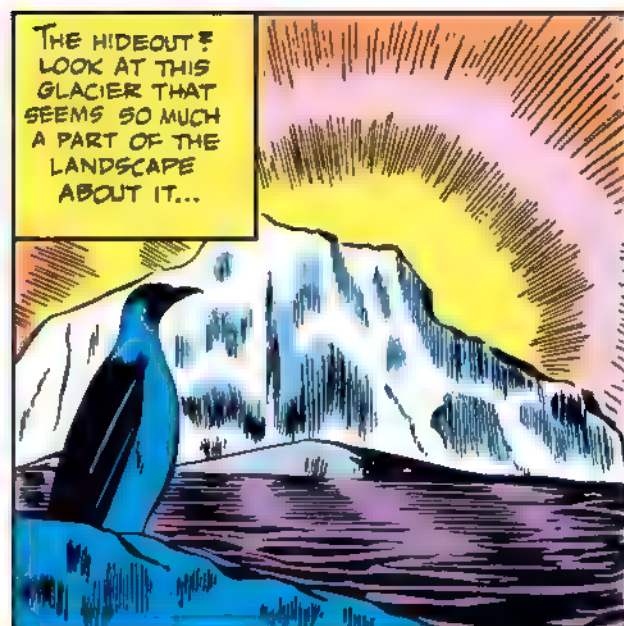


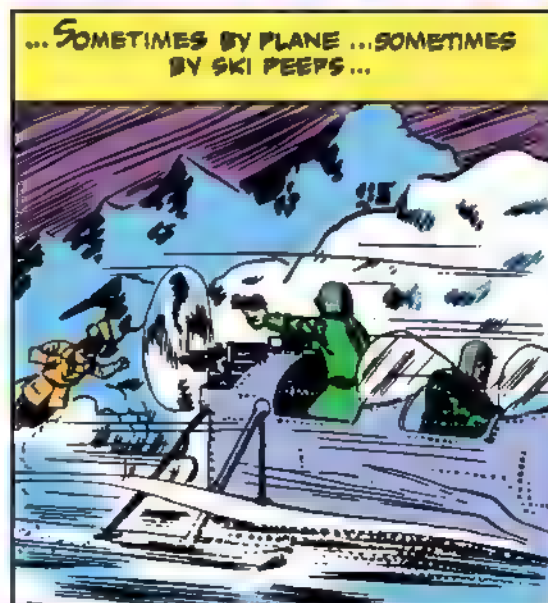
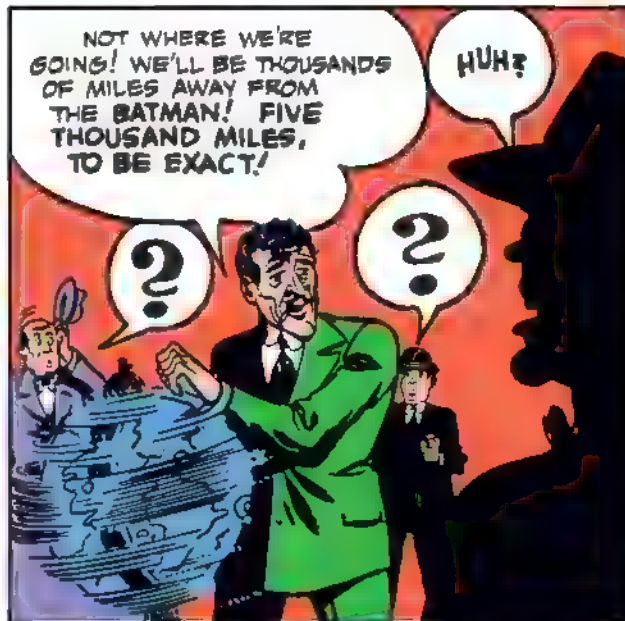
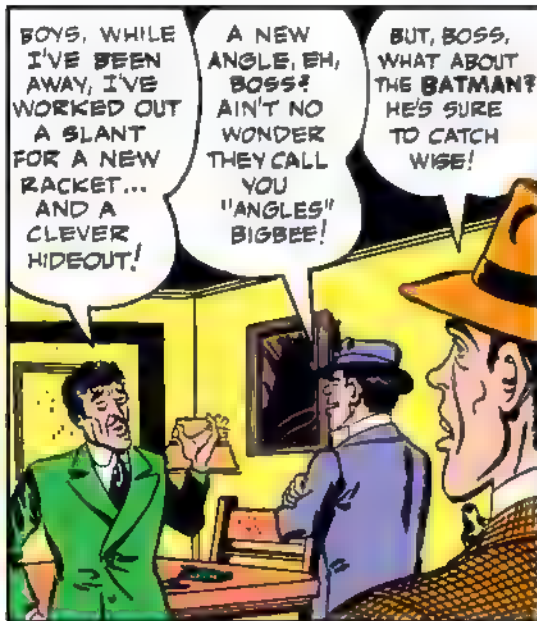
LET'S TAKE A LOOK IN AT A
CERTAIN GANGLAND HEADQUARTERS...

BOYS, THIS TOWN ISN'T HEALTHY
FOR US ANY MORE! EVERY COP KNOWS
EVERY HIDEOUT AND EVERY
RACKET!

YEAH...AND
DON'T FORGET HOW THE
BATMAN HAS BEEN
MAKIN' IT TOUGH
FER US!







AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS...

...THERE IT IS, BATMAN, THE WHOLE STORY! IT'S A BIZARRE CASE, BUT WE FEEL YOU CAN SOLVE THE MYSTERY OF THE SNOW MEN!

AND SINCE THE F.B.I. IS BUSY THESE DAYS RUNNING DOWN SPIES AND SABOTEURS...

I UNDERSTAND...THEY CAN'T BE INTERRUPTED IN THEIR FINE WORK! WELL... IT'S OFF TO THE NORTH FOR BATMAN AND COMPANY!



LATER AT HOME...

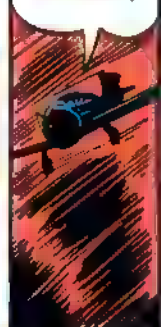
WHEN! HOW CAN WE MOVE IN THESE HEAVY FURS IN CASE WE RUN INTO SOME ACTION?

WE'LL WEAR OUR COSTUMES INTERWOVEN WITH FINE WIRES! ALL WE DO IS CONNECT THEM TO THE SMALL DYNAMOS IN OUR BELTS...AND THE RADIATING HEAT WILL PROTECT US FROM THE COLD!



STILL LATER... A WEIRD CRAFT RISES IN THE NIGHT-SKY!

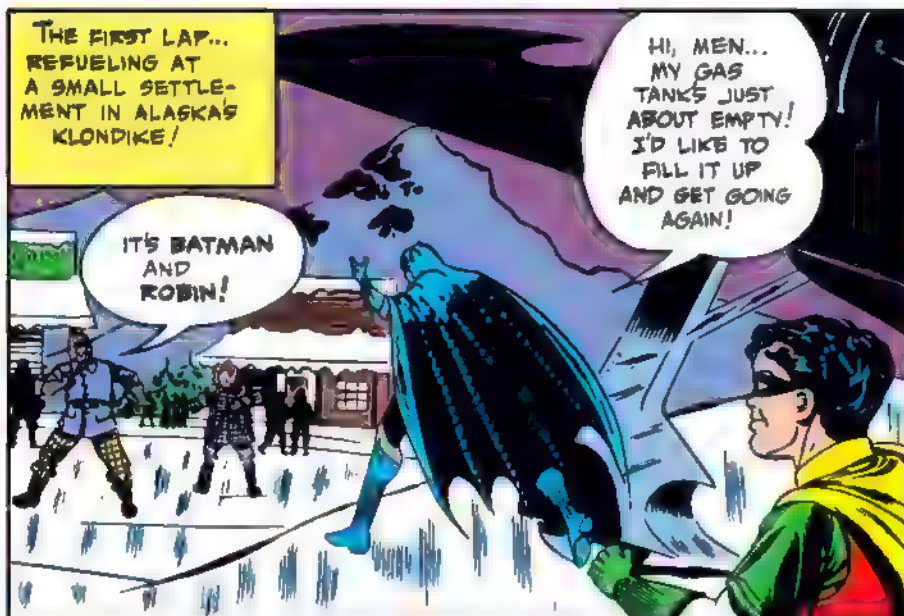
WELL, ROBIN, HERE WE GO AGAIN...INTO FRESH FIELDS OF CRIME!



THE FIRST LAP... REFUELING AT A SMALL SETTLEMENT IN ALASKA'S KLONDIKE!

IT'S BATMAN AND ROBIN!

HI, MEN... MY GAS TANKS JUST ABOUT EMPTY! I'D LIKE TO FILL IT UP AND GET GOING AGAIN!



AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STEP INTO THE TRADING STORE FOR GAS... SUDDENLY!

AS SOON AS WE... HEY! WHAT'S THAT?

GUNFIRE! SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!

BANG! BANG!!



IT'S THEM "SNOW MAN" BANDITS!

WHAT A BREAK... RIGHT INTO OUR LAPS! C'MON, ROBIN!

YIPPEE! LET'S TAKE 'EM!

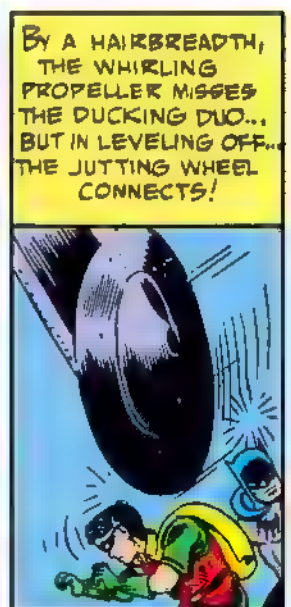
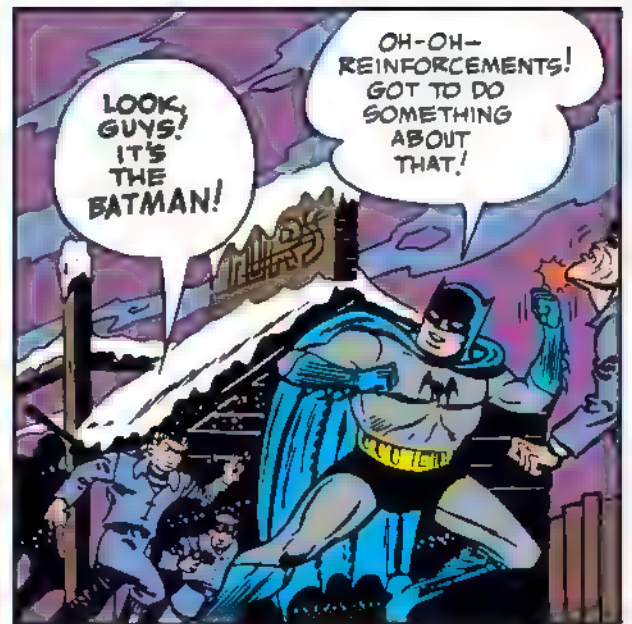


AS ONE UNIT, THE TWO-MAN TEAM EXPLODES INTO RAZZLE-DAZZLE ACTION!

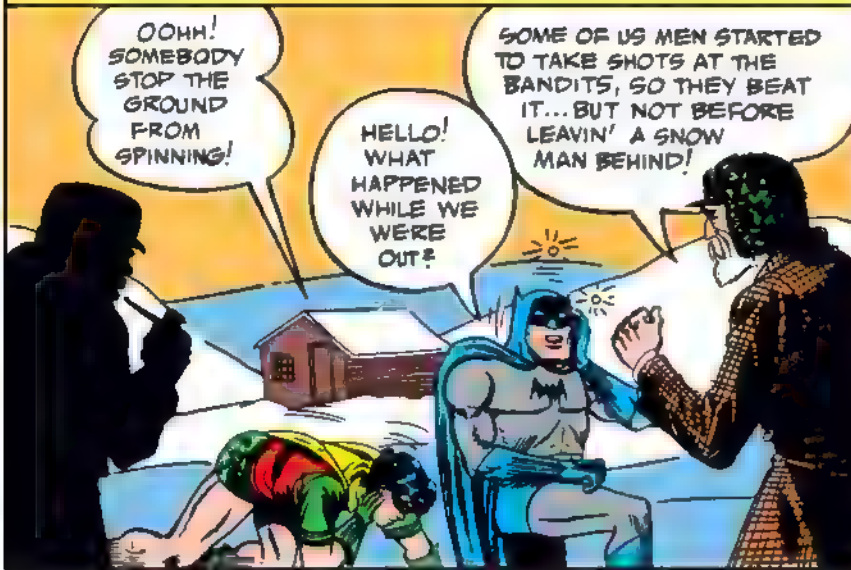
MY-MY! THIS IS LIKE OLD TIMES!



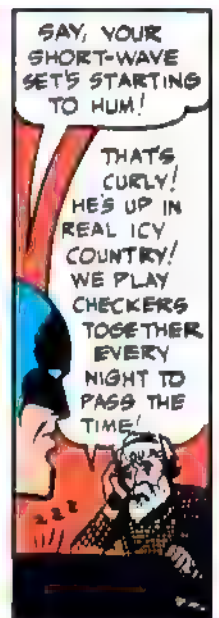
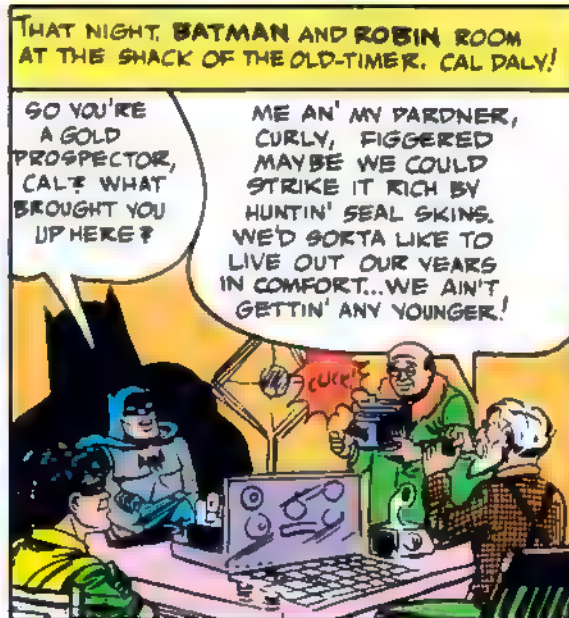
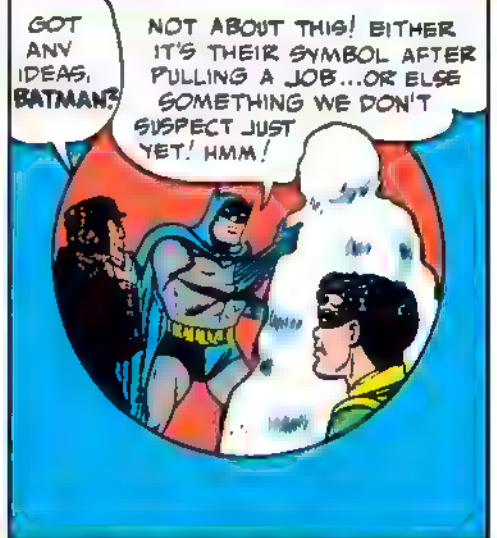
YOU SAID IT!



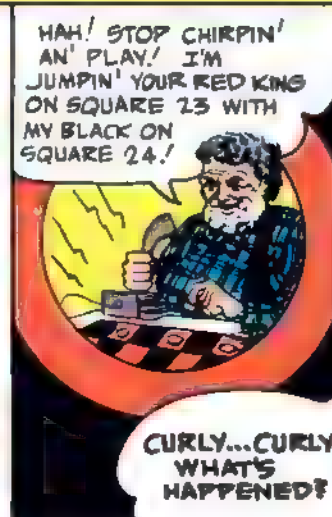
SOME TIME LATER...THE BATMAN AND ROBIN WAKE, HEADS THROBBING...



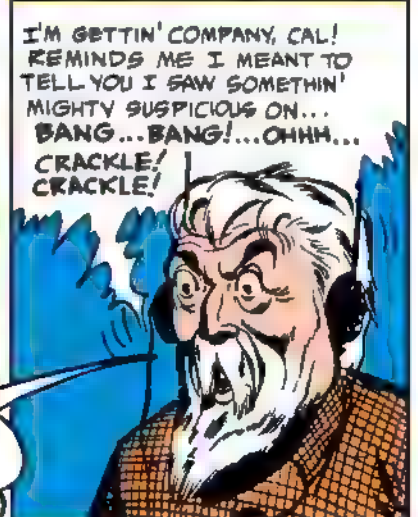
STILL LATER...THE BATMAN INSPECTS THE SNOW MAN...

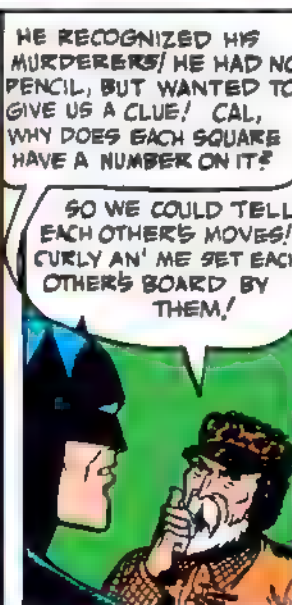
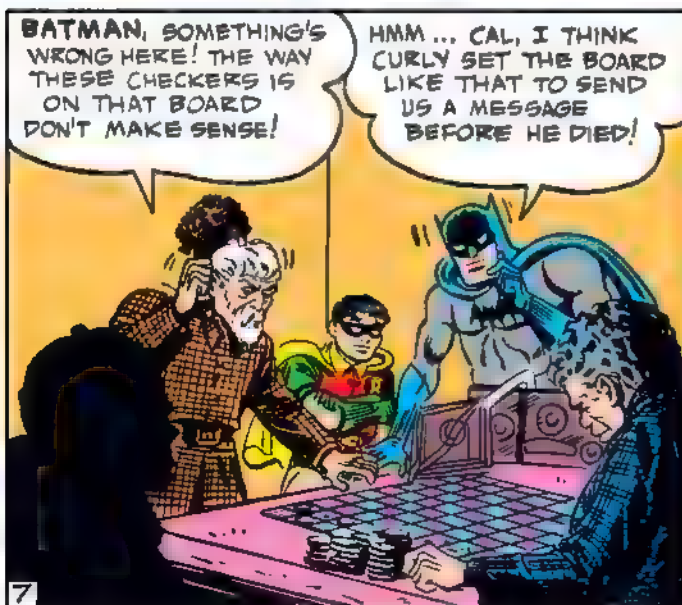
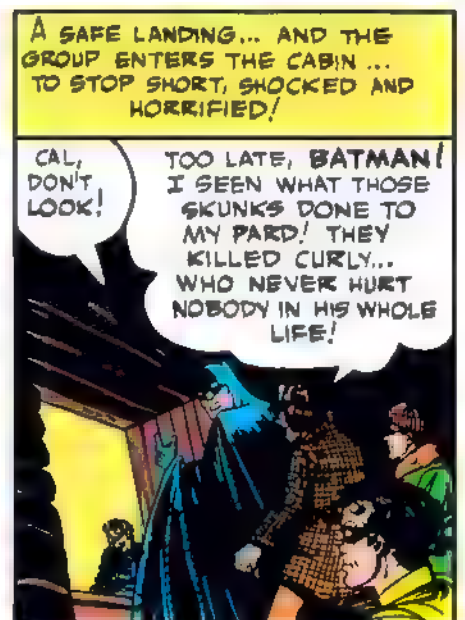
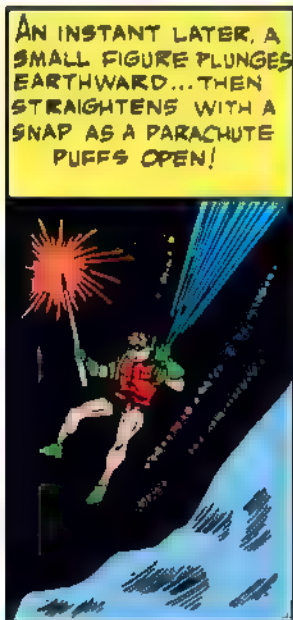
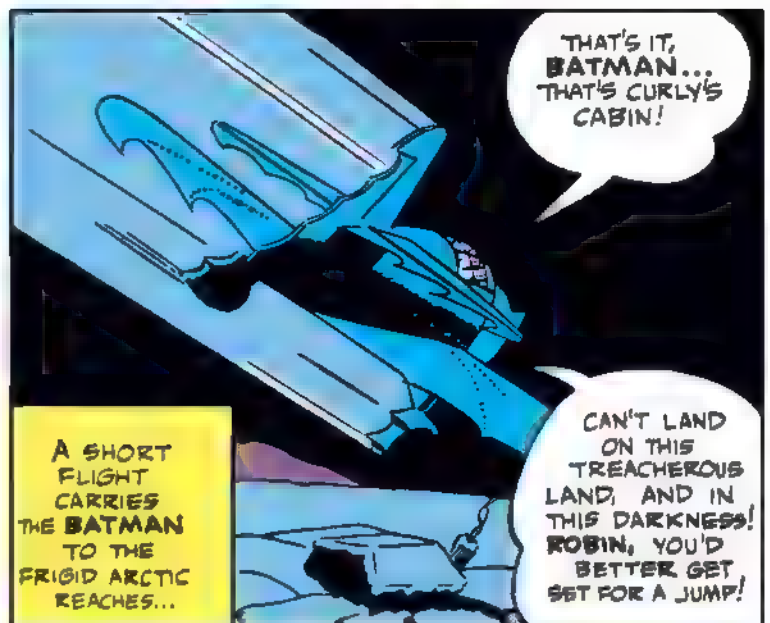
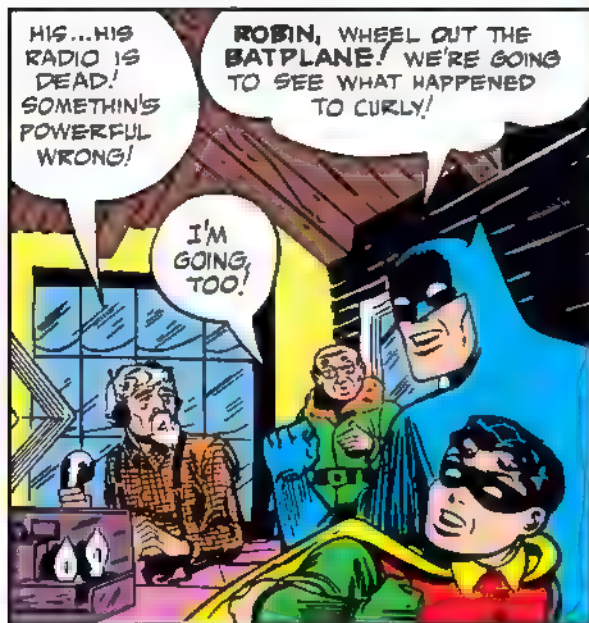


ACROSS THE DESOLATE ARCTIC WASTES FLOAT THE GLAD VOICES OF TWO OLD-TIMERS WHOSE LONELY LIVES ARE SOMEHOW MADE FULL AGAIN BY THE NIGHTLY GAME.



Suddenly, AS CAL MAKES HIS MOVE...





BIKOU IS A LARGE GLACIER TWENTY MILES FROM HERE! RAY WILL TAKE YOU!

CURLY SAW SOMETHING THERE WHILE HUNTING, AND WAS KILLED TO BE KEPT FROM TALKING! CAL, I'M GOING TO BIKOU! YOU STAY HERE AND BURY CURLY!

SURE... I'LL GUIDE YOU, BATMAN... I KNOW THIS SECTOR WELL!

NEXT MORNING, AS A CHILL WIND HOWLS AND WHINES OVER THE FROZEN EXPANSE!

WHY DON'T WE TAKE THE BATPLANE INSTEAD OF THIS DOG SLED, BATMAN?

THE ROAR OF OUR MOTOR MIGHT WARN THE CRIMINALS WE'RE AFTER. WE WANT A SILENT APPROACH!

ALL RIGHT, YOU HUSKIES... MUSH!

WEARY MILES LATER, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN SLEEP UNDER THE STARS... A FURTIVE FIGURE CREEPS FORWARD... AND...

HA! HA! SLEEP TIGHT, BATMAN!

WHAT...? RAY... YOU ONE OF THOSE CROOKS? UGH!

DISTURBED BY THE NOISE... ROBIN AWAKENS...

THE SAME GOES FOR YOU, BRAT! HA! HA!

FROM HIS OVER-SIZED CAMERA CASE, THE TREACHEROUS PHOTOGRAPHER UNCOVERS A WIRELESS SET! A MOMENT LATER...

HELLO, ANGLES!... I TOOK CARE OF THE BATMAN AND ROBIN! WHAT DO I DO NOW... PLUG 'EM?

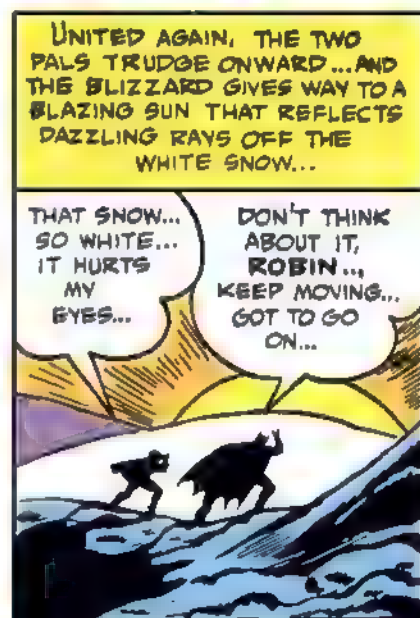
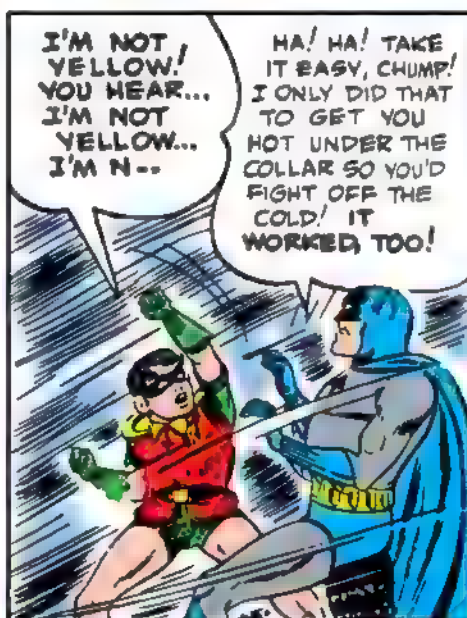
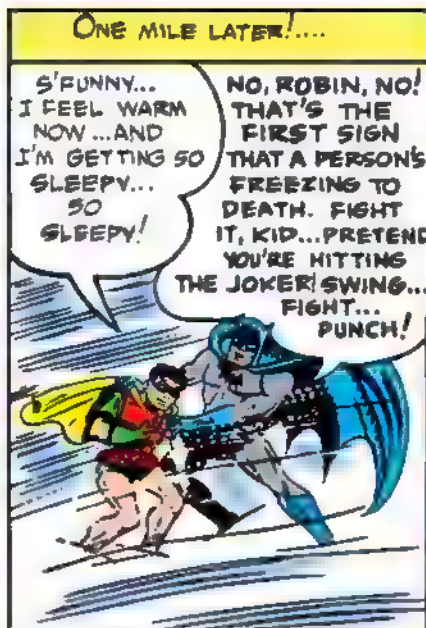
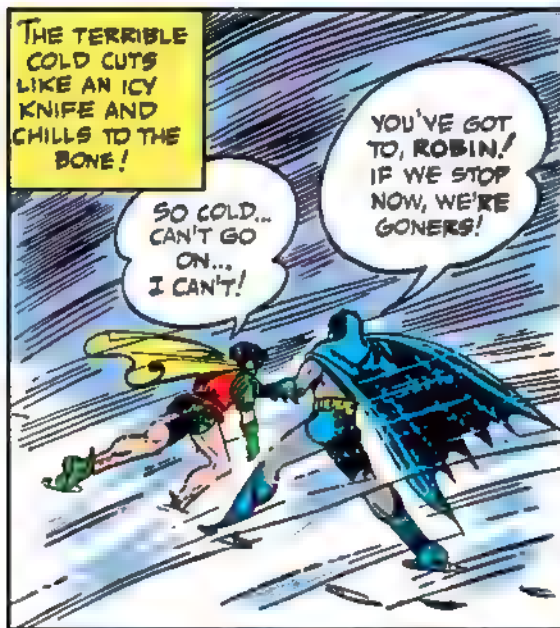
NO! LET 'EM DIE OF STARVATION AND COLD! NOBODY WILL EVER FIND THEM! THEY'LL BE BURIED UNDER SNOWDRIFTS! HOP TO IT!

Later... AS BATMAN AND ROBIN STRUGGLE TO THEIR FEET...

HE'S GONE! THAT RAT RAY HAS LEFT US STRANDED!

NO FOOD, TOO! ROBIN, THERE'S ONLY ONE THING TO DO... AND THAT'S HIKE!

HOURS LATER FIND TWO CHILLED FIGURES STUBBORNLY PUSHING FORWARD ON LEADEN FEET... FORWARD THROUGH A LASHING, HOWLING BLIZZARD... EVER FORWARD...

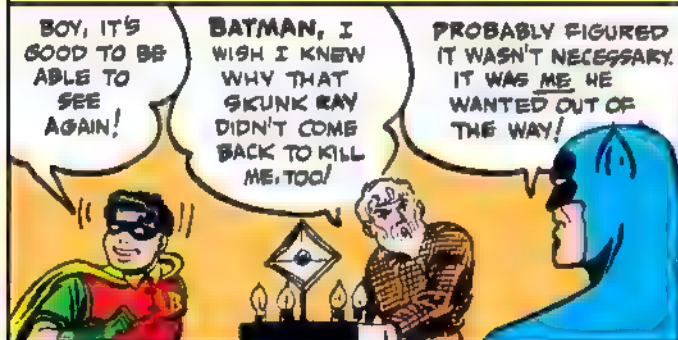


EVEN AS THE TERRIBLE SHAGGY SHAPE LUMBERS FORWARD... A RIFLE SHOT SHATTERS THE SILENCE...

CRACK!



TWO DAYS PASS, AND THE BATMAN AND ROBIN RECOVER FROM THEIR TEMPORARY ATTACK OF SNOW BLINDNESS!



BOY, IT'S GOOD TO BE ABLE TO SEE AGAIN!

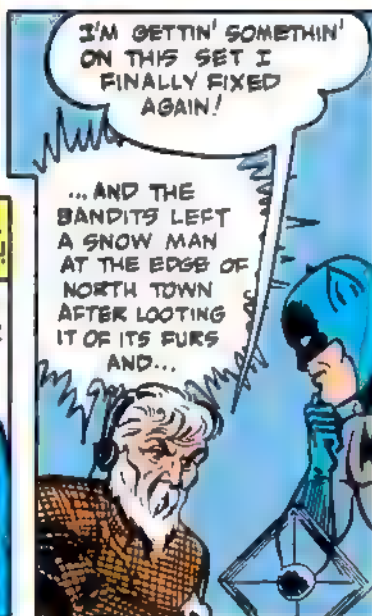
BATMAN, I WISH I KNEW WHY THAT SKUNK RAY DIDN'T COME BACK TO KILL ME, TOO!

PROBABLY FIGURED IT WASN'T NECESSARY. IT WAS ME, HE WANTED OUT OF THE WAY!



IT'S OKAY, BATMAN... I GOT 'IM!

CAL!... ROBIN... IT'S CAL... WE MUST HAVE WALKED IN A CIRCLE! IT'S CAL... WE'RE OKAY NOW... IT'S CAL!



I'M GETTIN' SOMETHIN' ON THIS SET I FINALLY FIXED AGAIN!

...AND THE BANDITS LEFT A SNOW MAN AT THE EDGE OF NORTH TOWN AFTER LOOTING IT OF ITS FURS AND...

NORTH TOWN!... THAT'S NEAR HERE!

THOSE BANDITS MUST HAVE A HIDEOUT NEAR BIKOU GLACIER! THAT'S WHY THEY TRIED TO KEEP US AWAY FROM THERE... BUT NOT ANY MORE! C'MON!

HOURS LATER... AT THE OUTSKIRTS OF NORTH TOWN... THE BATMAN ADDRESSES THE SCANT COLONY AT THE TRADING POST...

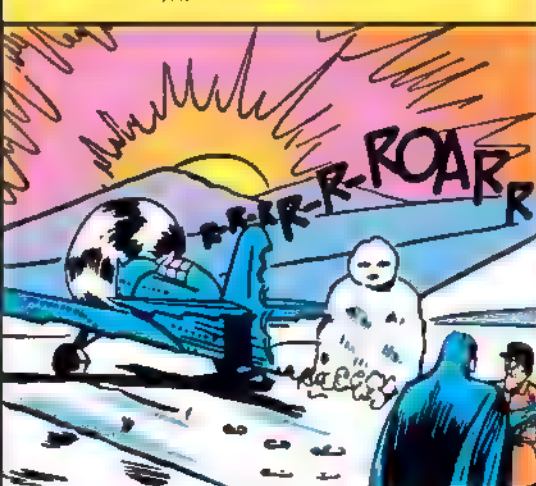
...WELL, MEN... THERE'S THE STORY! ARE YOU GOING TO LET THOSE BANDITS CONTINUE TO ROB AND KILL... OR ARE YOU GOING TO RUN THEM OUT OF THE NORTH?



RUN 'EM OUT!

LET'S GO GET 'EM!

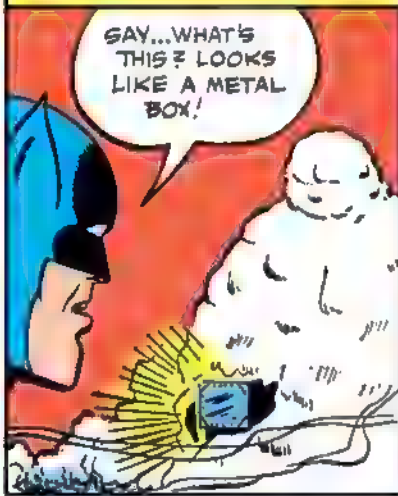
PREPARATIONS FOR BATTLE! ROBIN TUNES UP THE BATPLANE PARKED NEAR THE SNOW MAN LEFT BY THE BANDITS AFTER THEIR LATEST COUP...



HOT GAS FUMES HISS OUT FROM THE EXHAUST PIPE BESIDE THE SNOW MAN... AND THE SNOW MAN BEGINS TO MELT!



SUDDENLY, THE BATMAN'S KEEN EYES DETECT A SHINY OBJECT IMBEDDED IN THE MELTING SNOW MAN...



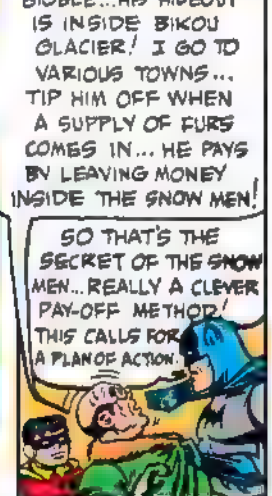
THE COVER IS PRIED OPEN...AND INSIDE...



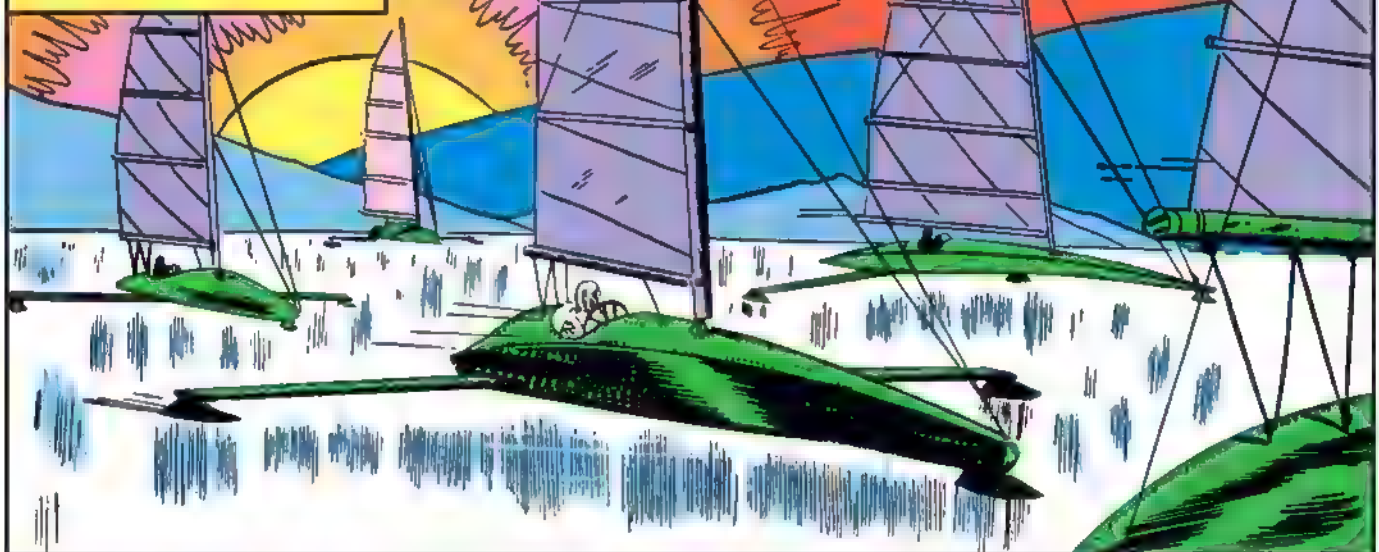
AGAIN BATMAN'S ROVING EYES SPOT SOMETHING BEHIND A SNOW BANK!



A THREATENING FIST INDUCES RAY TO TALK!



HOURS LATER! AS THE FAMED AURORA BOREALIS CURTAINS THE SKY, SKIMMING OVER FROZEN WATER ABOUT BIKOU GLACIER COMES A FLEET OF STRANGE CRAFT...ICE BOATS BEARING THE BATMAN'S ARMY!

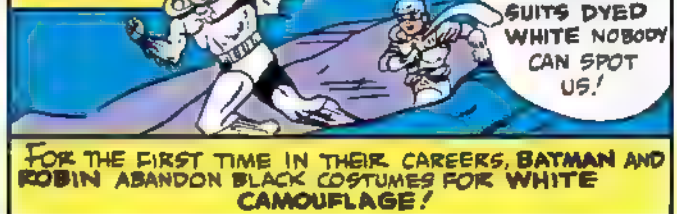


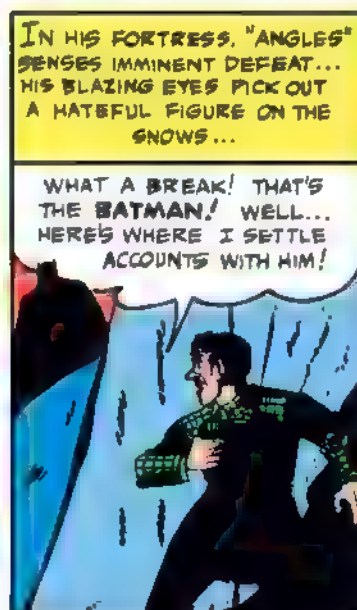
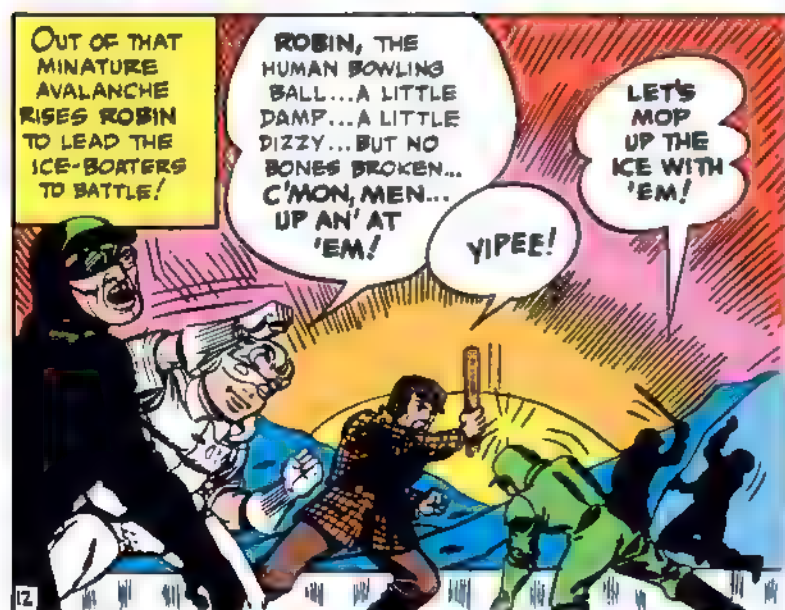
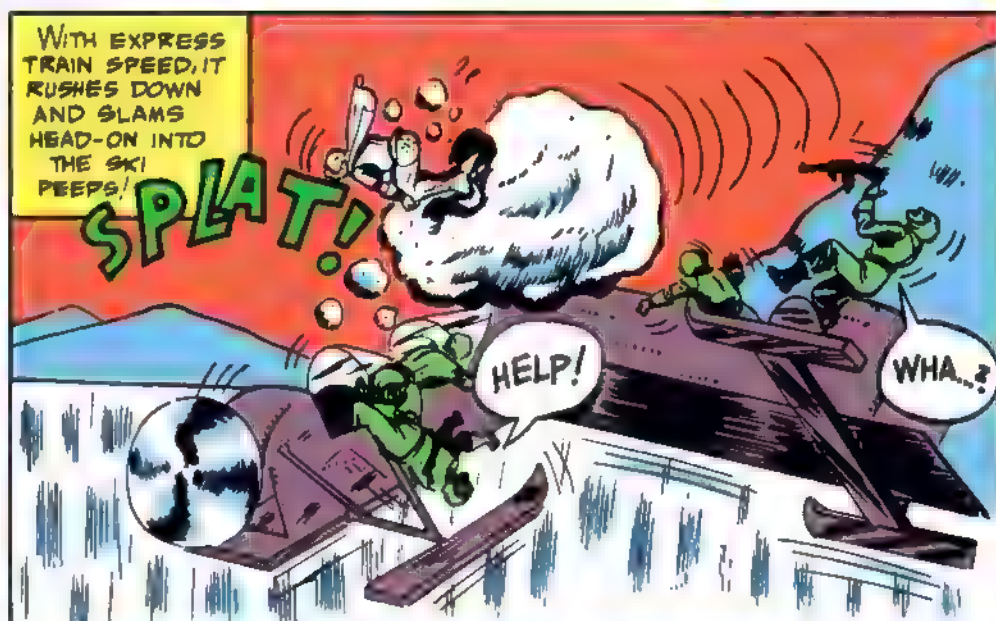
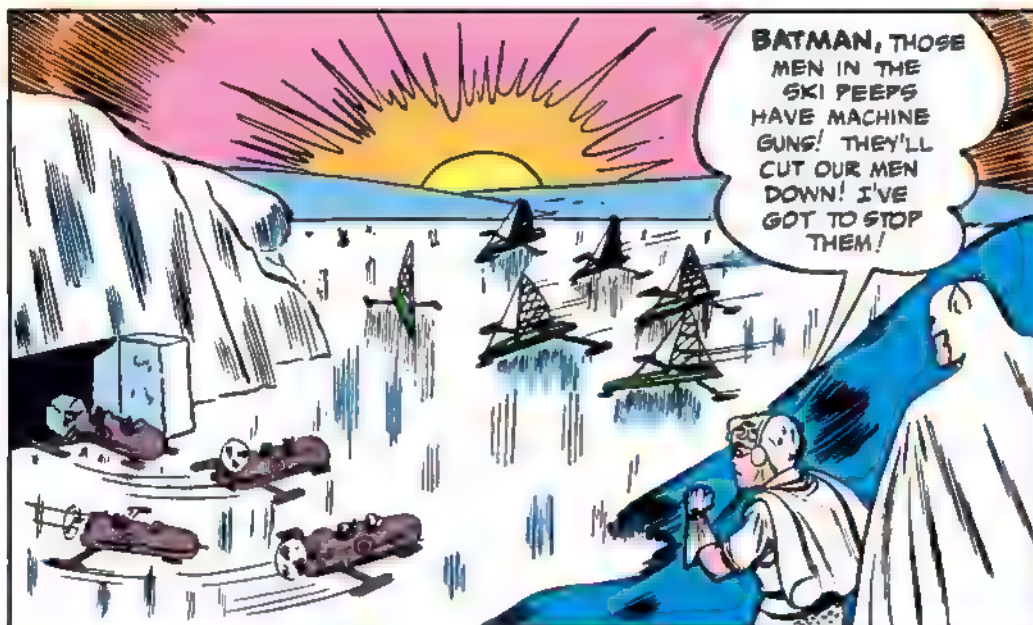
INSIDE BIKOU GLACIER A LOOK-OUT SHOUTS LOUDLY...

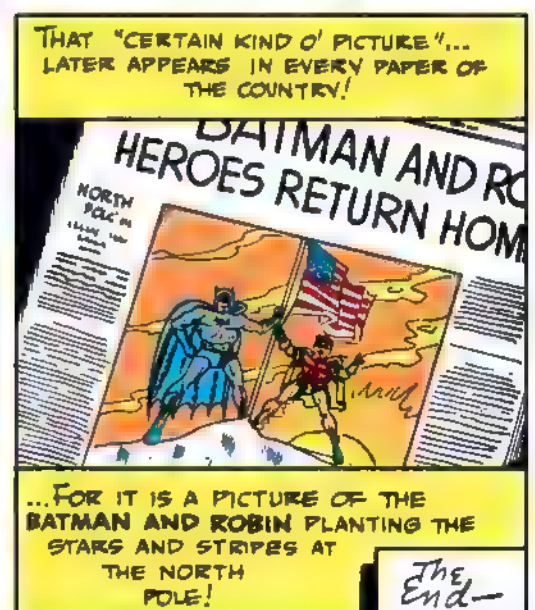
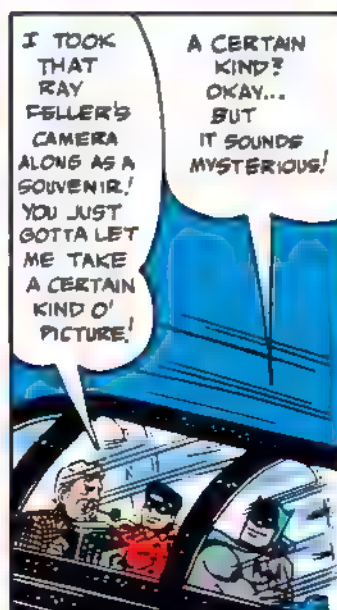
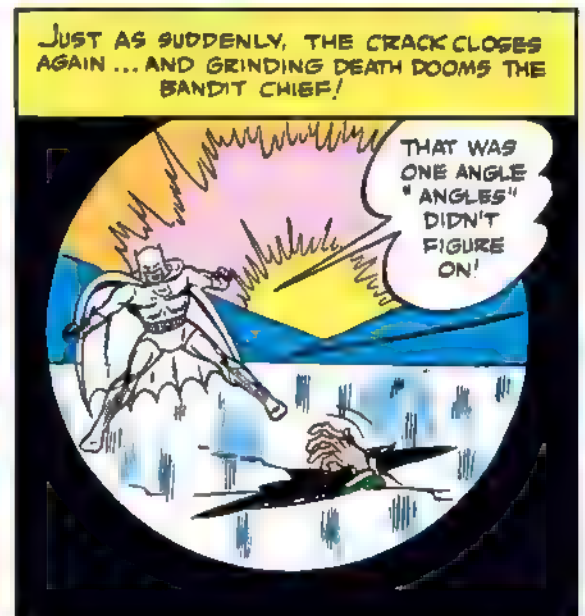
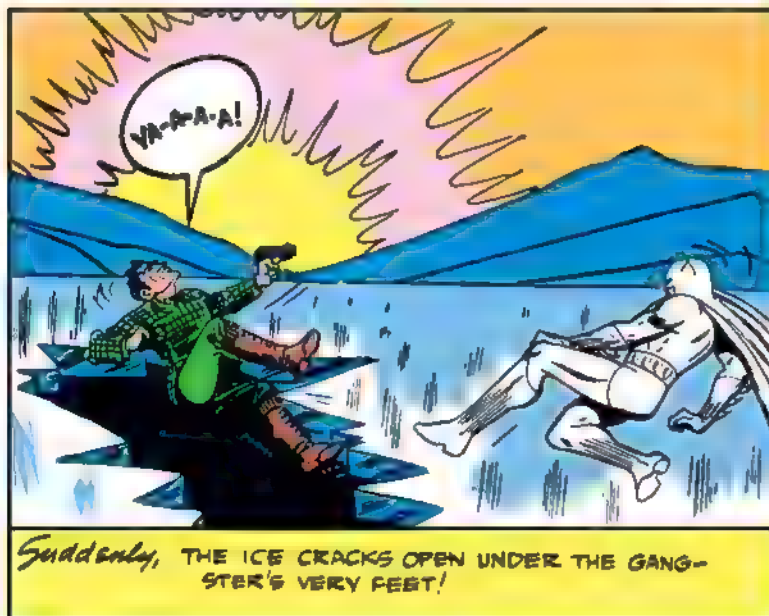
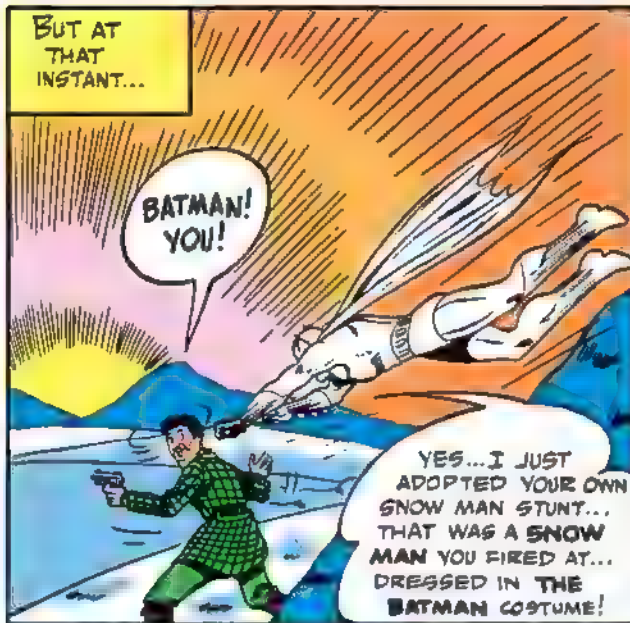


ATOP THE HILL OVERLOOKING THE ICE, TWO GHOST-WHITE FIGURES MOVE UNSEEN ACROSS THE SNOW!

C'MON, ROBIN, WHILE THE MEN KEEP "ANGLES" MEN BUSY, WE'LL SNEAK UP ON THE GLACIER!









No.67

A NEW WINNER!
BOY COMMANDOS



The BATMAN

Detective COMICS

SEPT.



BATMAN AND ROBIN
BATTLE THE
PENGUIN
IN A HIGH-FLYING
SUPER-ACTION EPIC
"CRIME'S EARLY BIRD"

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.

JOE
KANE

ANGELS HAVE WINGS... BUT
THE PENGUIN, THAT LUDICROUS
BIRD OF ILL OMEN, IS NO ANGEL...
AND SO HE HAS TO BORROW
PINIONS WHEN HE TAKES A
FLIER IN AS FANTASTIC A
DESIGN FOR CRIME AS EVER!
AN EVIL BRAIN CONCEIVED!
FACED WITH BAFFLING FLOCKS
OF FEATHERED FELONS, THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN SOAR
TO NEW HEIGHTS OF HEROISM,
TAKING THEIR NIMBLE WITS
AND AGILE MUSCLES TO THE
LIMIT TO CLIP THE WINGS OF...
"CRIME'S EARLY BIRD!"

SPRING...AND THE BIRDS RETURN TO
GOTHAM CITY...

LOOK, BRUCE...
THE FIRST ROBIN
I'VE SEEN THIS
YEAR. WE ROBINS
ARE EARLY BIRDS,
ALL RIGHT!

YOU'RE NO
EARLY BIRD
WHEN IT
COMES TO
GETTING UP
FOR
SCHOOL!

ELSEWHERE, EDUCATED BIRDS PERFORM FOR THE AMUSEMENT OF THEATER AUDIENCES..

WHILE NAUGHTY JACKDAWS STEAL NECKLACES OUT OF BOX, THIS FELLA TELL US HOW MANY IS FIVE AND SEVEN!

AWRRK...! FIVE AND SEVEN ARE TWELVE, CHUM!

SING HI LO AND HIS FAMOUS PERFORMING BIRDS..

... AND A FLY-BY-NIGHT CHARACTER WELL KNOWN TO THE POLICE...THE WILY PENGUIN WATCHES THROUGH SMOKED GLASSES!

VERY CLEVER! AND IT IS ONLY FITTING THAT I, THE PENGUIN, USE THOSE BIRDS IN MY BUSINESS!

PRESENTLY...AS WEALTHY BRUCE WAYNE AND YOUNG DICK GRAYSON NEAR THE THEATER DISTRICT...

LISTEN... SHOOTING!

THERE GOES OUR QUIET EVENING AT THE THEATER!

BANG!

OUTER GARMENTS DISCARDED IN A TWINKLING, THE TWO BECOME THOSE CAPED FIGURES OF NIGHT...BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!

I'D RATHER PUT ON THIS KIND OF SHOW ANY TIME!

TO TELL THE TRUTH, ROBIN, SO WOULD I!

WELL, WELL... LOOK WHO'S HERE! HI, BOYS! NEED ANY HELP?

THE BATMAN!

WHAT'D WE DO TO DESERVE THIS?

YOU'RE LOUIS THE LIP... OR AM I MAKING A MISTAKE?

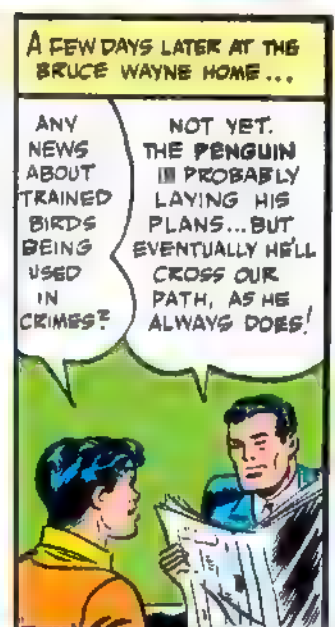
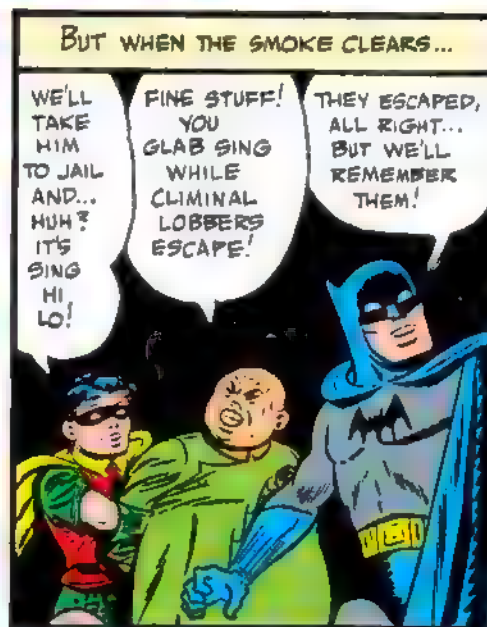
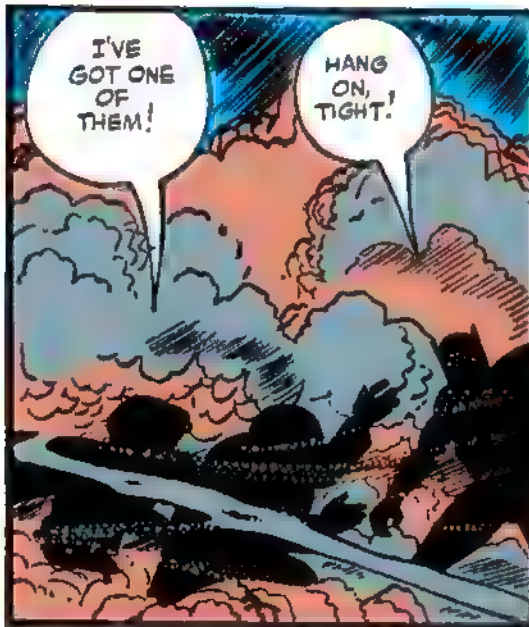
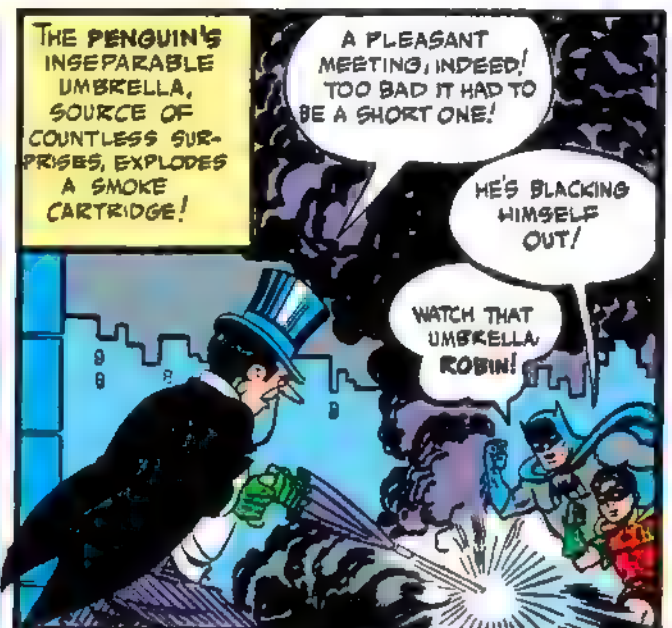
IT'S MY MISTAKE FOR BEIN' HERE!

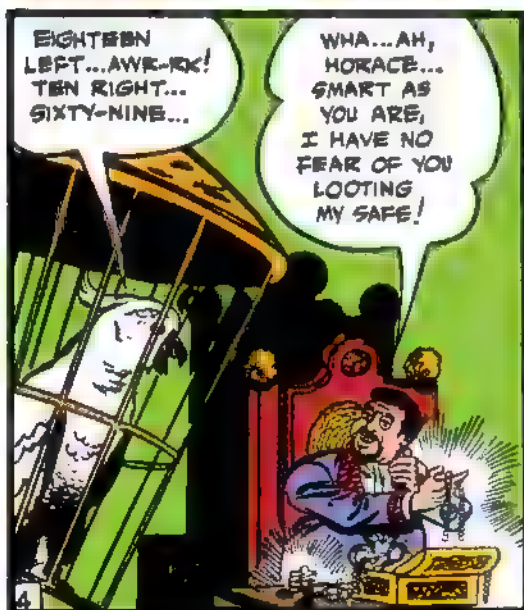
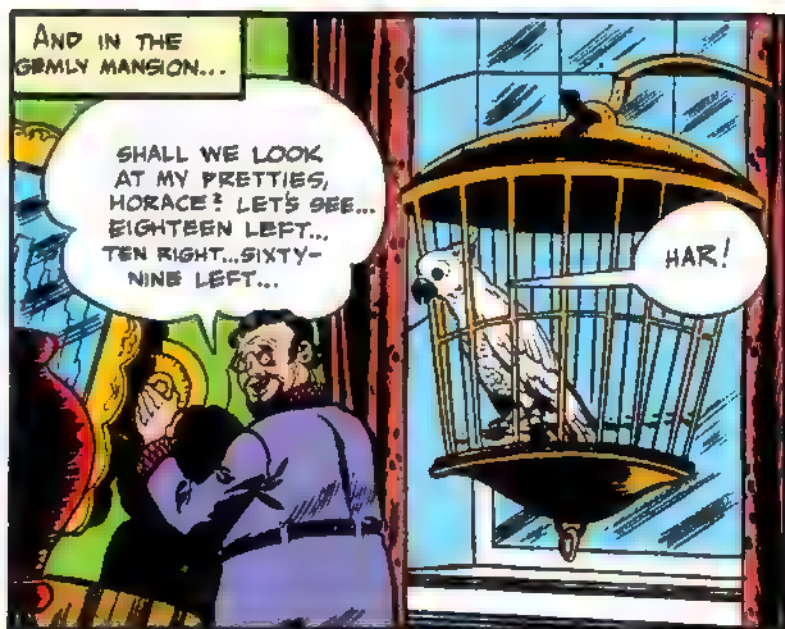
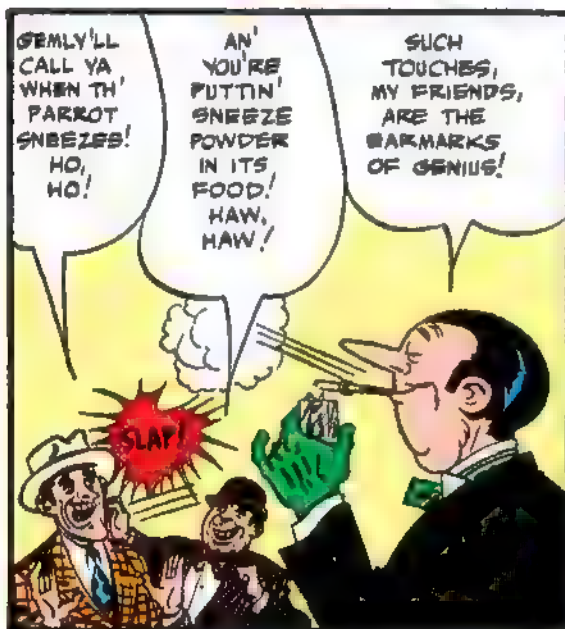
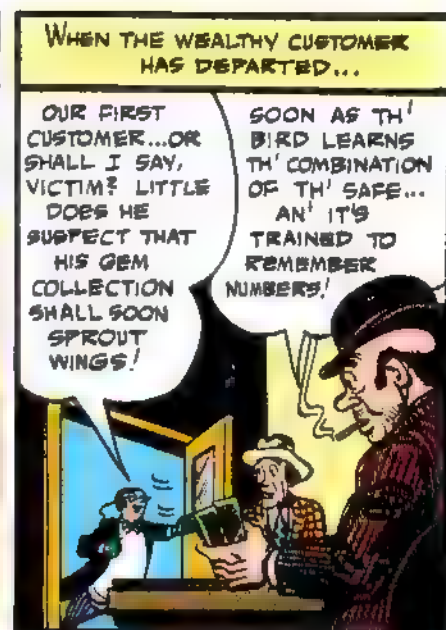
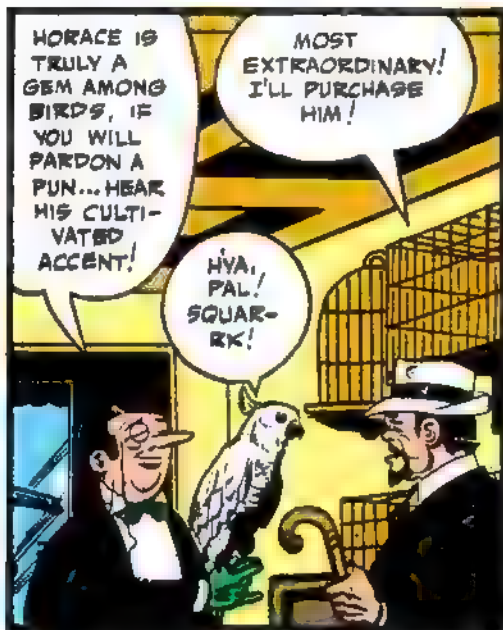
I'M GONNA RUB OUT ONE MISTAKE RIGHT NOW!

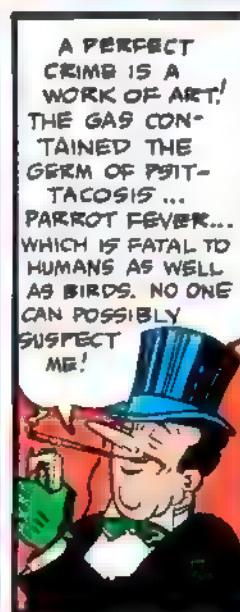
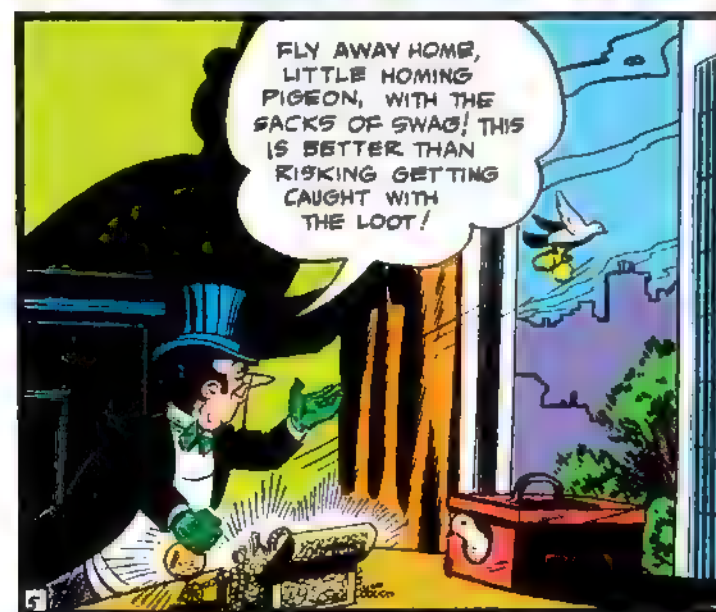
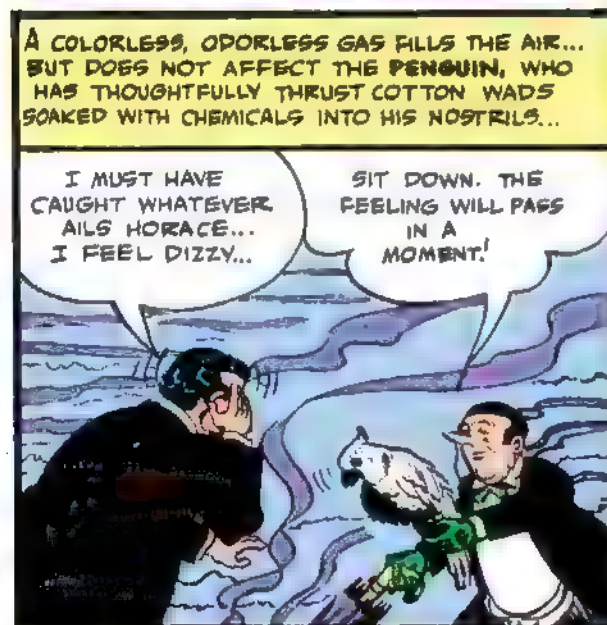
HOTFOOT HARRY, I BELIEVE!

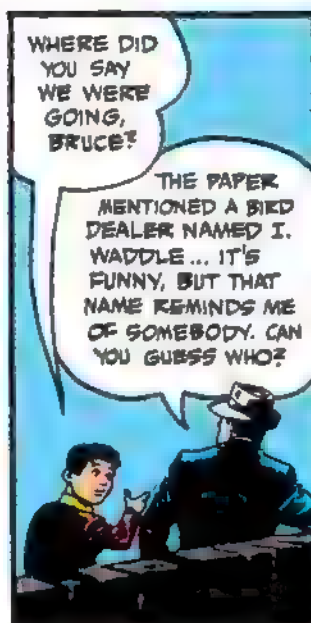
CLOAKED CLIMINALS LOS SING HI LO!

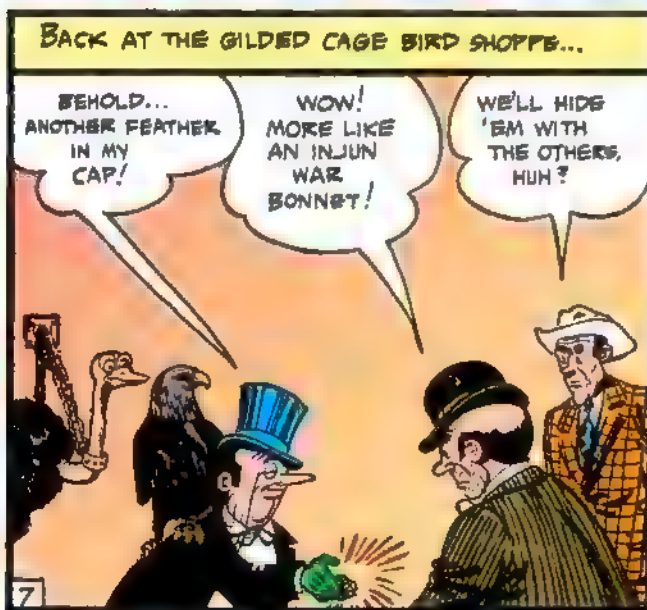
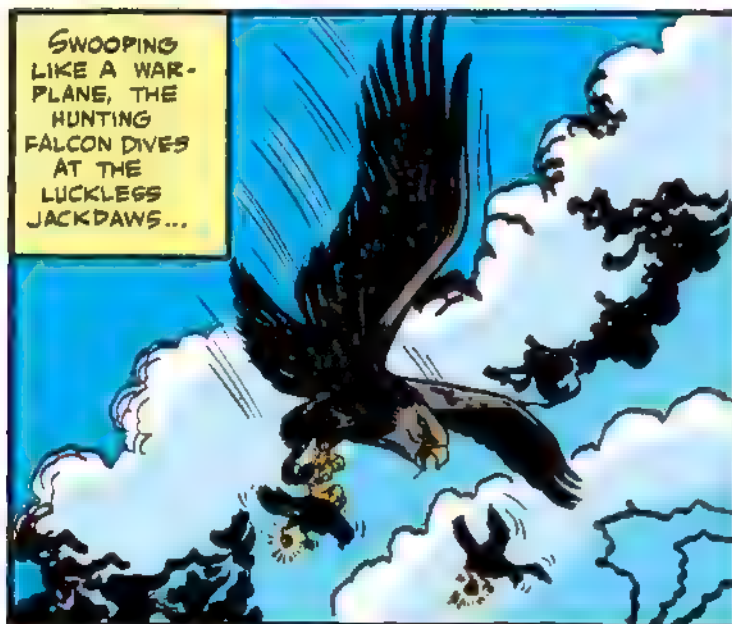
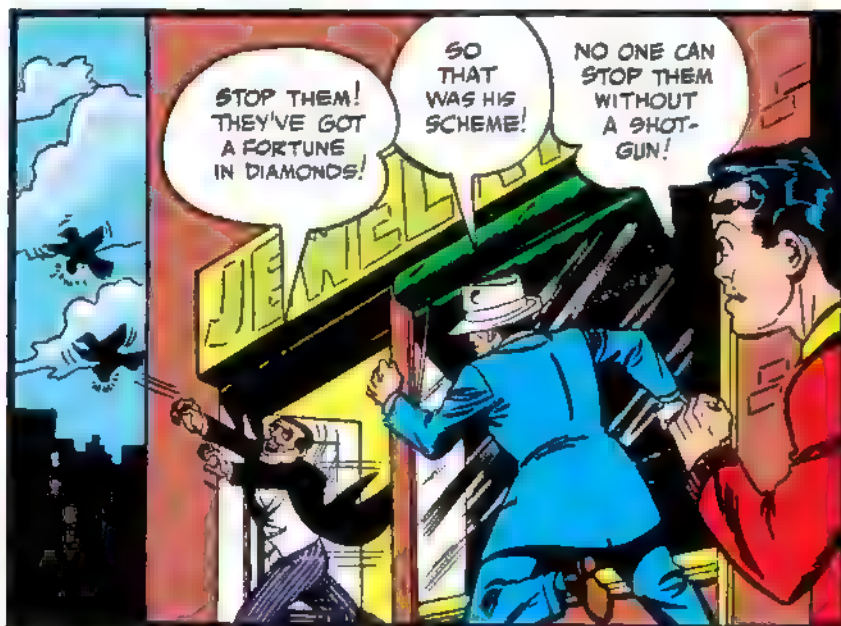
JAILBIRDS AND STAGE BIRDS! ANY OTHER AROUND?

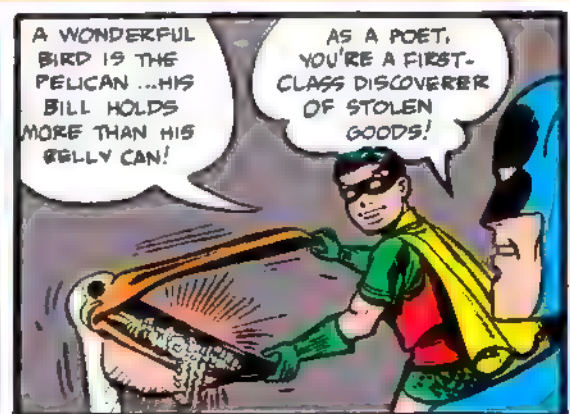
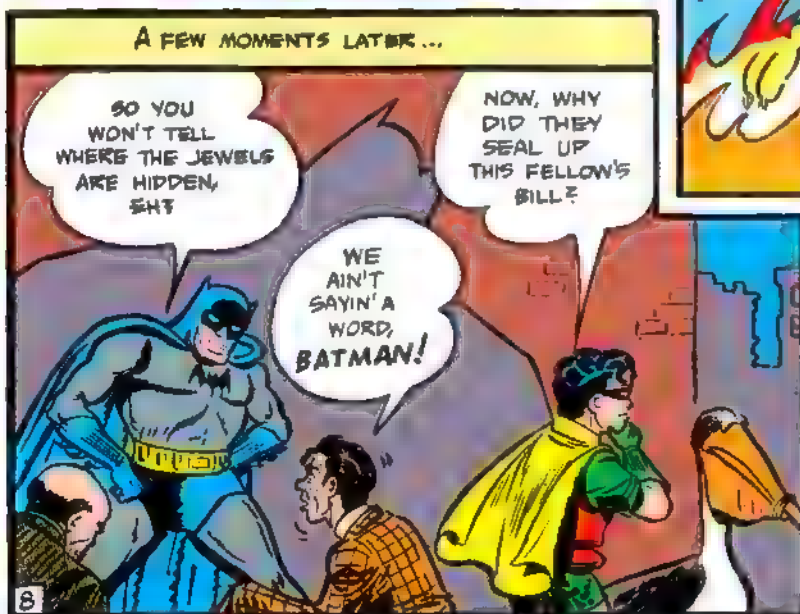




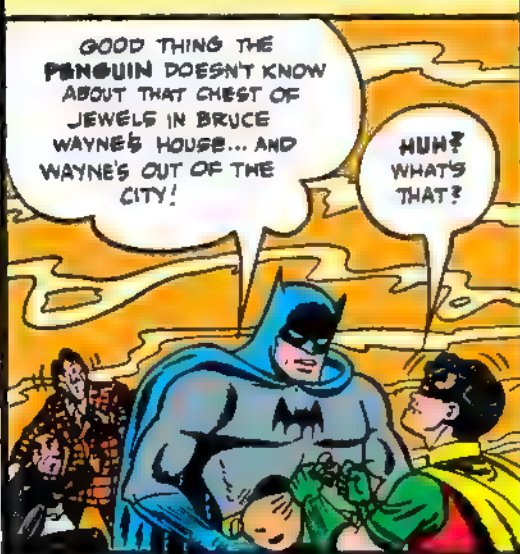








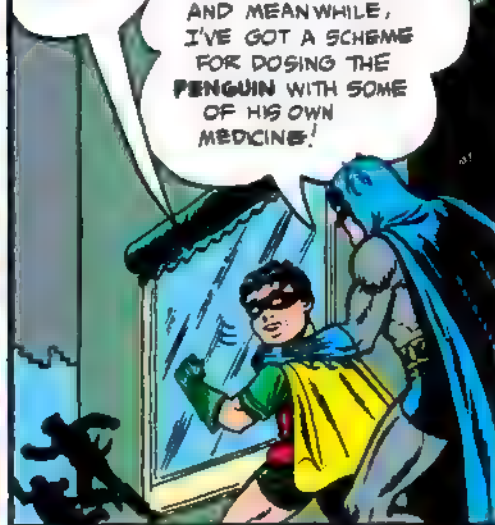
WITH SEEMING CARELESSNESS, THE BATMAN TURNS HIS BACK ON HIS PRISONERS...



GOOD THING THE PENGUIN DOESN'T KNOW ABOUT THAT CHEST OF JEWELS IN BRUCE WAYNE'S HOUSE... AND WAYNE'S OUT OF THE CITY!

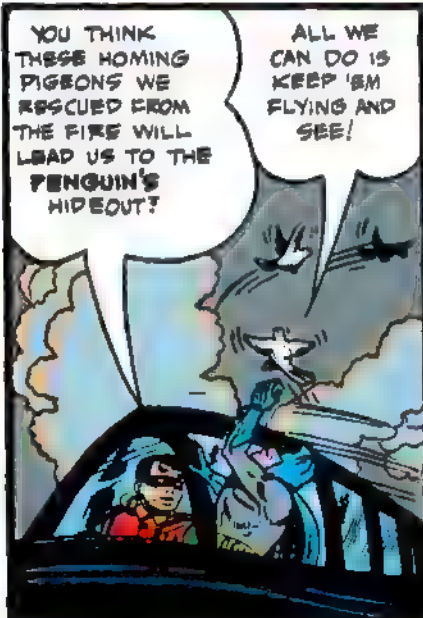
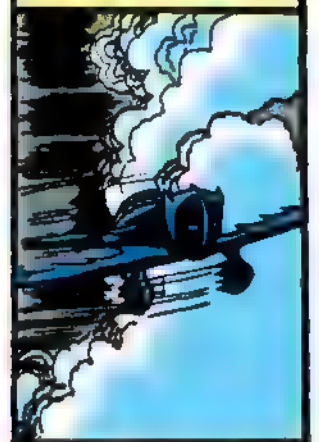
HUH? WHAT'S THAT?

THEY'RE GETTING AWAY!



LET THEM! THE POLICE CAN PICK THEM UP ANY TIME... AND MEANWHILE, I'VE GOT A SCHEME FOR DOSING THE PENGUIN WITH SOME OF HIS OWN MEDICINE!

THAT AFTERNOON, A WEIRD CRAFT STREAKS FROM A SECRET UNDERGROUND HANGAR INTO THE BLUE SKY... THE BATPLANE...

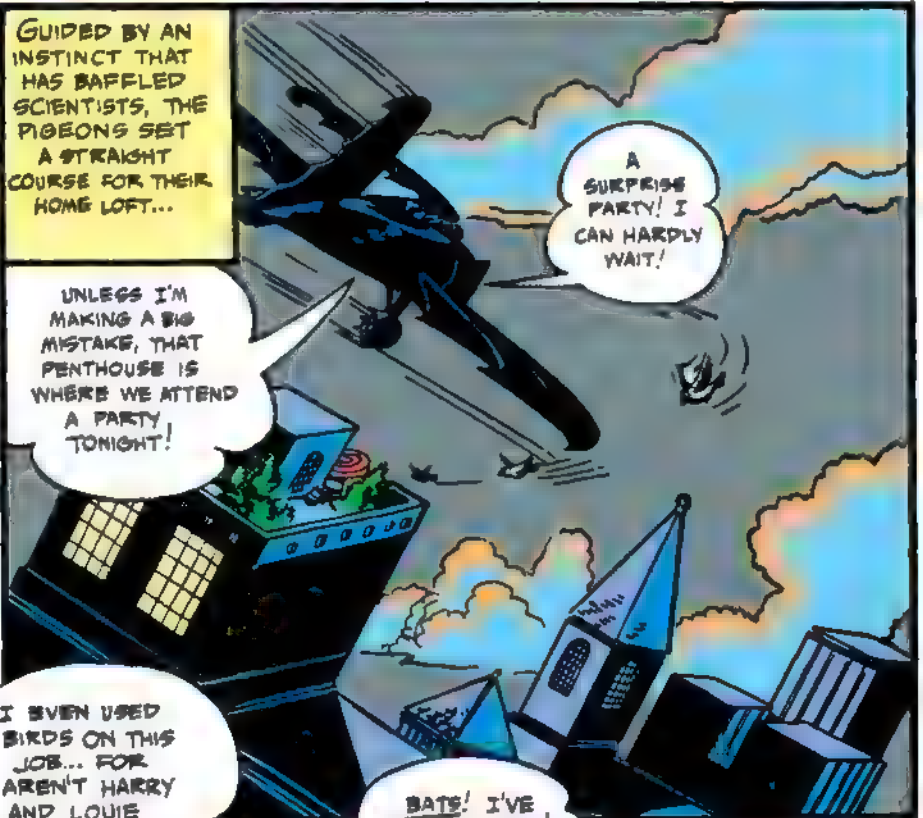


YOU THINK THESE HOMING PIGEONS WE RESCUED FROM THE FIRE WILL LEAD US TO THE PENGUIN'S HIDEOUT?

ALL WE CAN DO IS KEEP 'EM FLYING AND SEE!

GUIDED BY AN INSTINCT THAT HAS BAFFLED SCIENTISTS, THE PIGEONS SET A STRAIGHT COURSE FOR THEIR HOME LOFT...

UNLESS I'M MAKING A BIG MISTAKE, THAT PENTHOUSE IS WHERE WE ATTEND A PARTY TONIGHT!



A SURPRISE PARTY! I CAN HARDLY WAIT!

MIDNIGHT... AND THE PENGUIN RETURNS HOME AFTER A PLEASANT EVENING'S WORK...

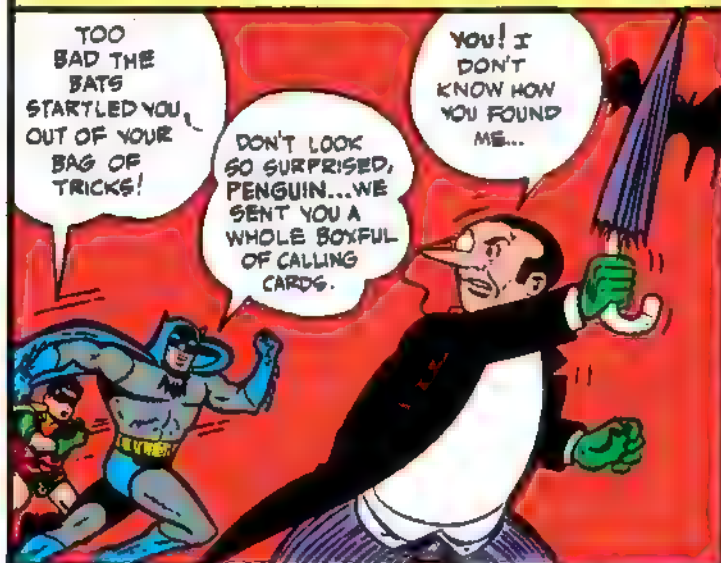
THE JEWELS OF PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE! HA! THE BATMAN HIMSELF TIPPED ME OFF TO THEM, THROUGH LOUIE THE LIP AND HARRY!

I EVEN USED BIRDS ON THIS JOB... FOR AREN'T HARRY AND LOUIE STOOID PIGEONS? NOW LET US SEE HOW MUCH RICHER THE EVENING HAS MADE ME!

BATE! I'VE BEEN TRICKED! THIS IS THE BATMAN'S IDEA OF A JOKE!



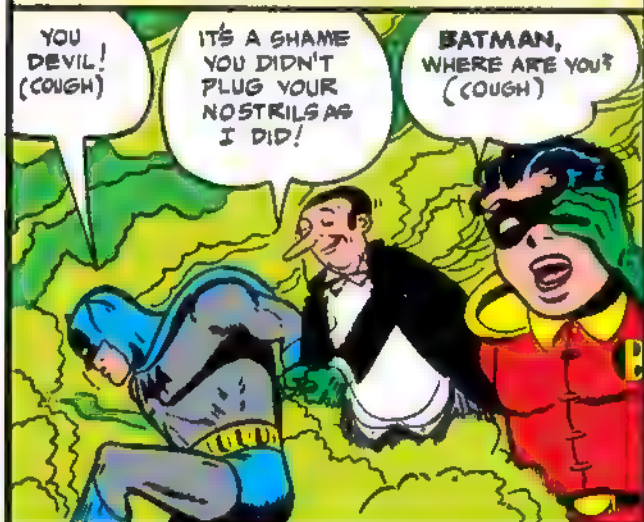
THE NEXT INSTANT...



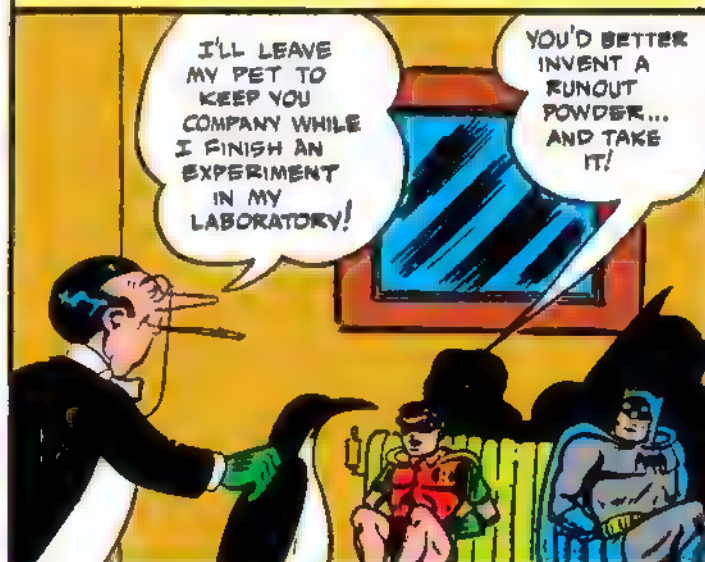
A CLOUD OF FINE POWDER SPURTS FROM THE EVER-READY UMBRELLA...



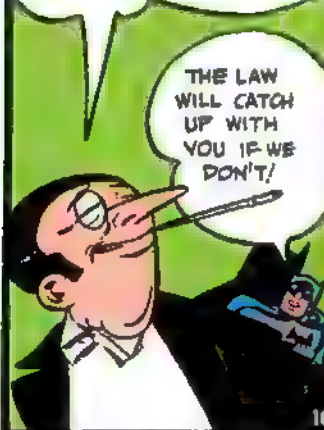
WEAKENED AND BLINDED BY FITS OF SNEEZING, THE RACKET-WRECKERS ARE EASY VICTIMS FOR THE MASTER VILLAIN...



SOON THEY ARE HELPLESS PRISONERS...



I'M WORKING ON A NEW DEADLY GAS!... IN A FEW MINUTES YOU TWO SHALL BE HONORED BY BEING THE FIRST TO SMELL IT!

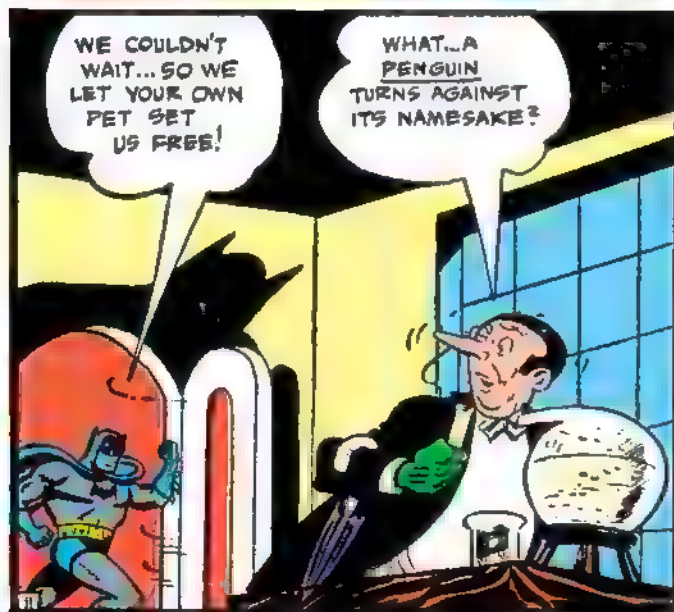
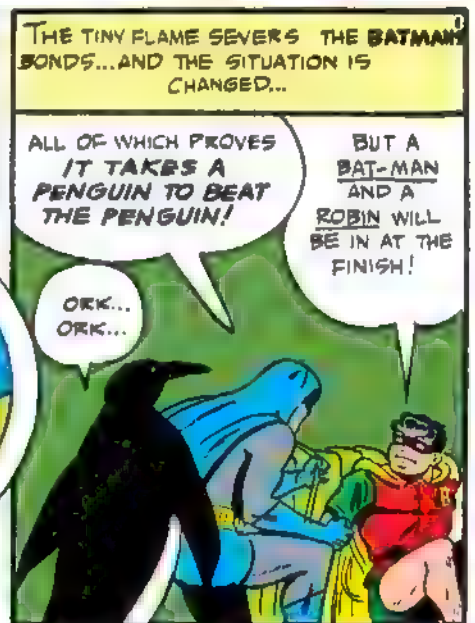
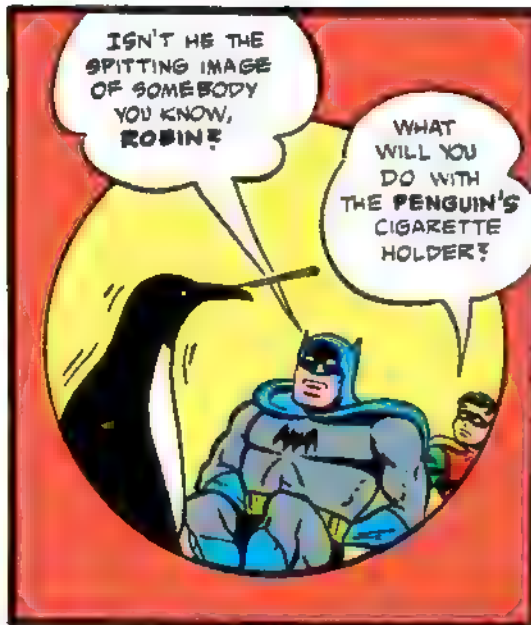


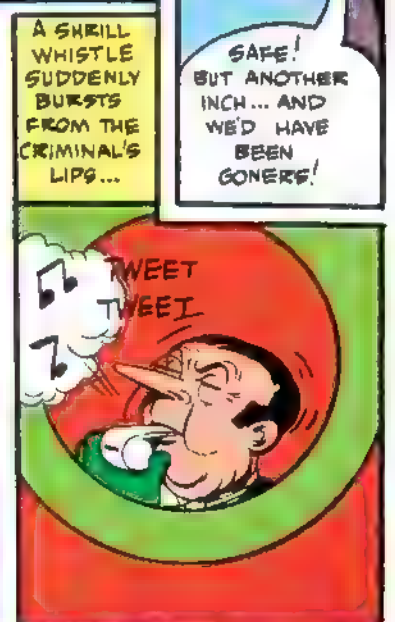
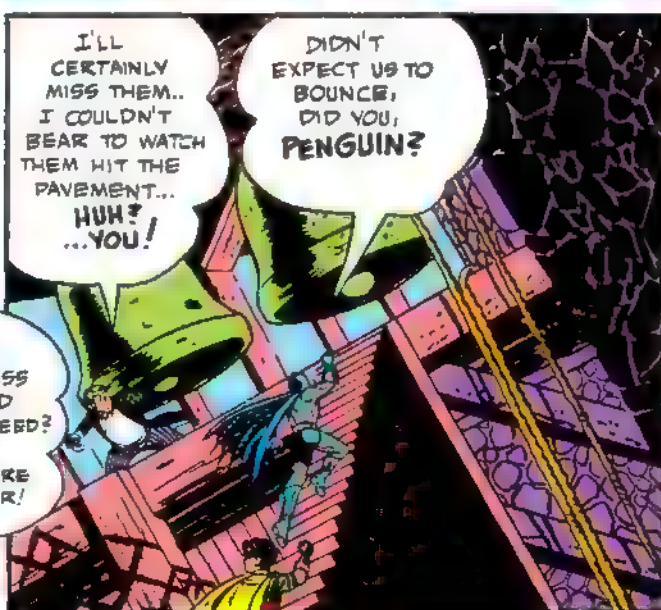
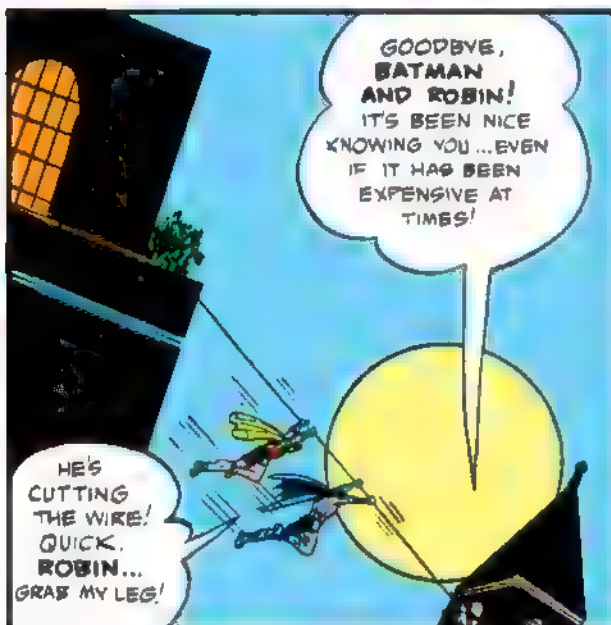
FUNNY BIRDS, PENGUINS...UNLIKE OUR CAPTOR, THEY'RE HARMLESS CREATURES-EVEN HELPFUL AT TIMES!

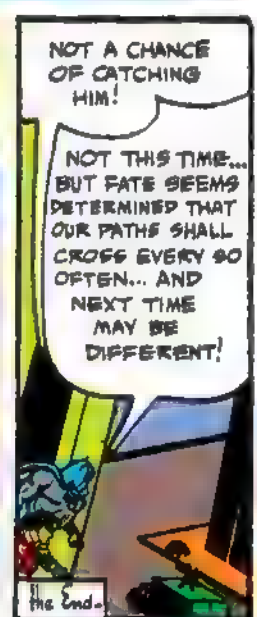
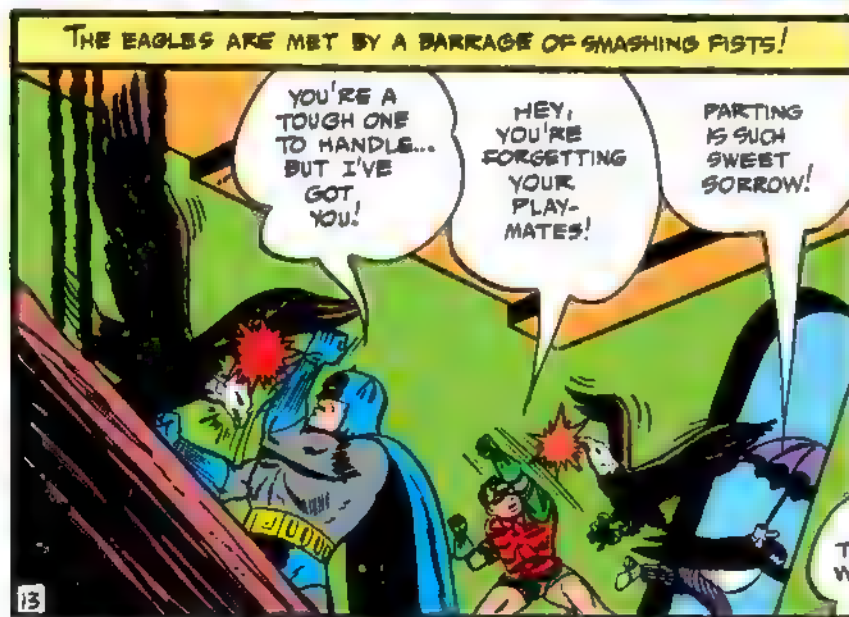
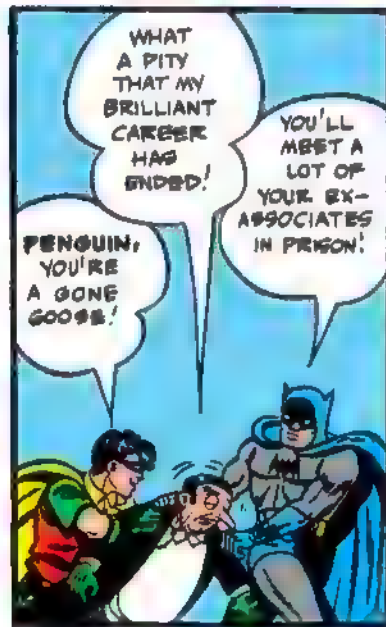
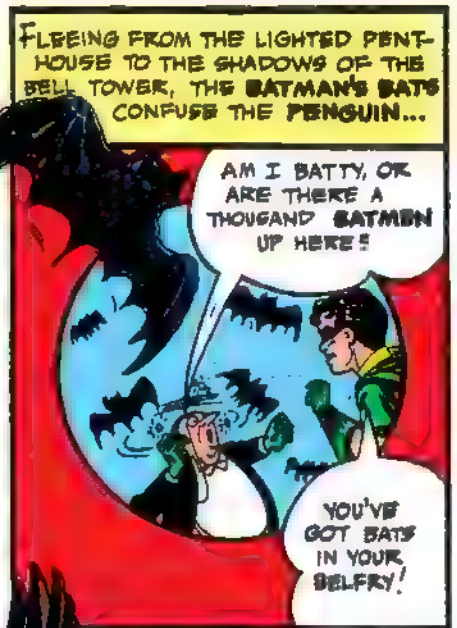
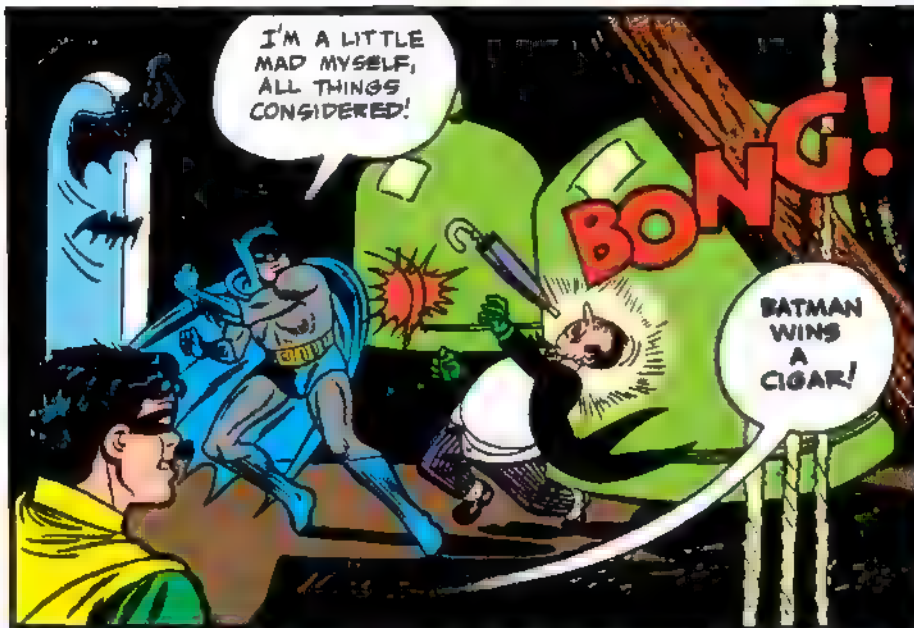


ONE OF THEIR HABITS IS TO CARRY PRESENTS TO STRANGERS WHO INTEREST THEM... STONES AND BITS OF WOOD... HEY, OLD-TIMER...ORK, ORK!











No. 68

FOUR STAR HIT!
BOY COMMANDOS



IND

The **BATMAN**

Detective

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

OCT.

COMICS



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-



HAVE YOU MET **TWO-FACE**, THE MOST BIZARRE VILLAIN OF ALL HISTORY? HE USED TO BE HANDSOME DISTRICT ATTORNEY HARVEY KENT. ONE DAY A VENGEFUL RACKETEER HURLED ACID AT HIM, HORRIBLY SCARRING ONE SIDE OF HIS FACE! SHUNNED, BITTER, KENT IN TRUTH BECAME **TWO-FACE**... A LIVING JEKYL-HYDE!

ONE SIDE GOOD, CLEAN, HANDSOME...THE OTHER SIDE UGLY, RUTHLESS, CRIMINAL! EVEN HIS CRIMES WERE DECIDED BY THE TOSS OF A TWO-HEADED DOLLAR, ONE SIDE SHINY, THE OTHER SIDE MUTILATED... LIKE HIS OWN!

BUT WHEN THE **BATMAN** TOOK UP HIS TRAIL, **TWO-FACE** WAS FORCED TO FLIP FOR FREEDOM OR FOR JAIL... AND SO, WHERE OUR FIRST STORY ENDS, THIS ONE BEGINS AS **BATMAN AND ROBIN** CLASH A SECOND TIME WITH...

"The Man Who Led a Double Life!"

BOB
KANE

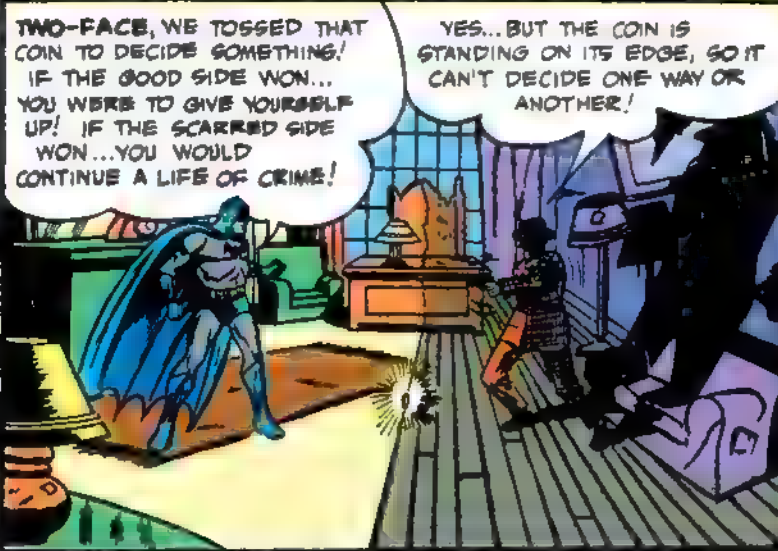
A FLIPPED SILVER DOLLAR IRONICALLY STANDS ON ITS EDGE IN A CRACK BETWEEN THE ROOM'S FLOOR BOARDS AS TWO MEN PEER AT IT!



AND THIS IS A BIZARRE ROOM... ALMOST AS BIZARRE AS THE MAN THE BATMAN WATCHES CLOSELY... TWO-FACE!

TWO-FACE, WE TOSSED THAT COIN TO DECIDE SOMETHING! IF THE GOOD SIDE WON... YOU WERE TO GIVE YOURSELF UP! IF THE SCARRED SIDE WON... YOU WOULD CONTINUE A LIFE OF CRIME!

YES... BUT THE COIN IS STANDING ON ITS EDGE, SO IT CAN'T DECIDE ONE WAY OR ANOTHER!




TWO-FACE SCOOPS UP THE COIN... AND DROPS IT INTO THE BREAST POCKET OF HIS VEST...



WHY PUT THE COIN AWAY? WHY NOT FLIP OVER AGAIN?

I REPEAT, BATMAN. I ONLY TOSS ONCE AGAINST CHANCE! SINCE I CAN'T DECIDE FOR MYSELF, NOW IT'S UP TO FATE TO DECIDE WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE!




AND FATE COMES BANGING IN... AS A BULLET SPEEDS UNERRINGLY AT TWO-FACE'S BREAST!

IT'S OKAY, BATMAN... I WON'T GIVE HIM A CHANCE TO FIRE THAT GUN!

NO, DON'T!

UGH!



YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE DONE IT! I MIGHT HAVE REFORMED HIM YET!

SORRY, BUT I THOUGHT YOU WERE IN DANGER! I GUESS I ACTED TOO FAST TO THINK!



MAYBE YOU DON'T, BUT WHEN I ACT... I THINK... FAST!




A HEADLONG CRASH CARRIES TWO-FACE AWAY FROM THE GROGGY PURSUERS...

HA! GOT AWAY! THE ONLY THING THAT SAVED MY LIFE WAS THE COIN... BECAUSE THAT'S WHAT THE BULLET HIT! MY BREAST POCKET!



THE BULLET... IT HIT THE SCARRED SIDE! FATE'S GIVEN ME MY ANSWER! THE SCARRED SIDE SAVED MY LIFE... FOR A LIFE OF CRIME!



THIS IS THE PATH DESTINY'S CHOSEN FOR ME... GOOD-BYE FOREVER TO HARVEY KENT, D.A... IT'S TWO-FACE, CRIME KING, FROM NOW ON!



ONE WEEK LATER...TWO-FACE ADDRESSES HIS NEW CRIME COMBINE.



...AND THE OTHER SIDE, SCARRED. EVIL! ON THE FACES OF THIS COIN DEPEND OUR JOBS...AS DIFFERENT AS NIGHT AND DAY, THEY ARE EVIL OR GOOD!



A SUDDEN FLIP...



...AND THE SPINNING COIN DROPS FACE UP!



THE GOOD SIDE WINS...SO OUR NEXT JOB IS IN THE DAYTIME! AND BECAUSE ALL MY CRIMES ARE BASED ON MY SYMBOL...TWO...WE WILL WORK ON THAT DOUBLES TENNIS MATCH TODAY!



LATER, UNDER THE AFTERNOON SUN...CRIME STALKS THE TENNIS COURTS...



...AND LATER THAT SAME DAY...A CHARITY HOME RECEIVES A DONATION...

WHY...LOOK AT ALL THE MONBY SOME-ONE DONATED!



YES...AND IT WAS CONTRIBUTED BY TWO-FACE!



ELSEWHERE...

I'M SORRY YOU BOYS DIDN'T MAKE ANY MONEY ON THIS TENNIS JOB...BUT THE GOOD SIDE OF THE COIN WON!



YEAH! BUT I HOPE THE BAD SIDE WINS SOON!



SO ONCE AGAIN THE COIN SPINS HIGH...AND TWO-FACE STRIKES AGAIN...THIS TIME AT NIGHT...FOR EVIL HAS TRIUMPHED OVER GOOD!



HEADLINE NEWS HITS THE FRONT PAGES!

EXTRA DAILY GLOBE

HENRY LOGAN KIDNAPPED

MATCH KING SNATCHED BEFORE ADVERTISING CLUB.

HENRY LOGAN

I'LL BET WE'RE PUT ON THAT LOGAN SNATCH!

SNAP IT UP, ROBIN... THAT'S HEADQUARTERS CALLING US!

AT THAT VERY INSTANT... TWO LYNX-LIKE FIGURES FLASH LIKE TWIN COMETS OVER THE ROOFTOPS!

... AND SURE ENOUGH... SOME TIME LATER...

WHY THIS MYSTERIOUS RIDE, COMMISSIONER GORDON?

TO THE HENRY LOGAN HOME!

SEE? I GUESSED RIGHT!

LATER... THE CAR HALTS... AND THE TRIO STEPS INTO A HUGE BARN-LIKE STRUCTURE...

OOFS! SLIPPED... ON A MATCH STICK!

GREAT SCOTT! ALL OF THE THINGS HERE ARE MADE OF MATCHSTICKS! WHAT IS THIS PLACE, ANYWAY?

MY HOBBY HOUSE. I COME HERE WHEN I DON'T WANT TO BE DISTURBED!

HENRY LOGAN! B-BUT YOU'VE BEEN KIDNAPPED!

USE YOUR EYES... I'M HERE! COULDN'T BE KIDNAPPED IF I'M HERE. BAH!

THEN WHO WAS KIDNAPPED?

IT WAS HIS DOUBLE!

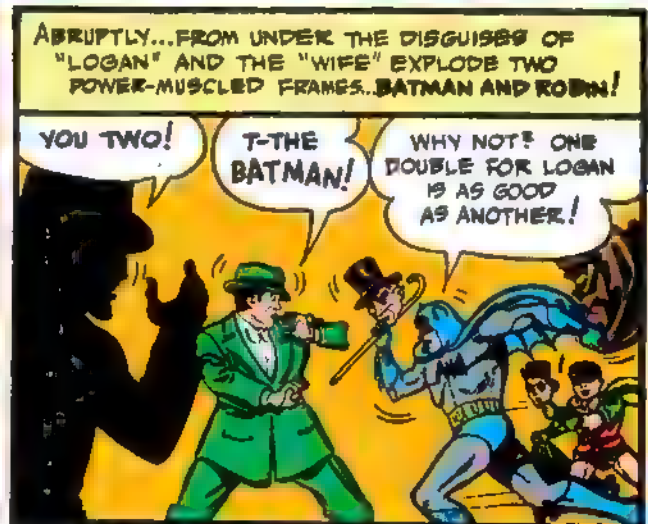
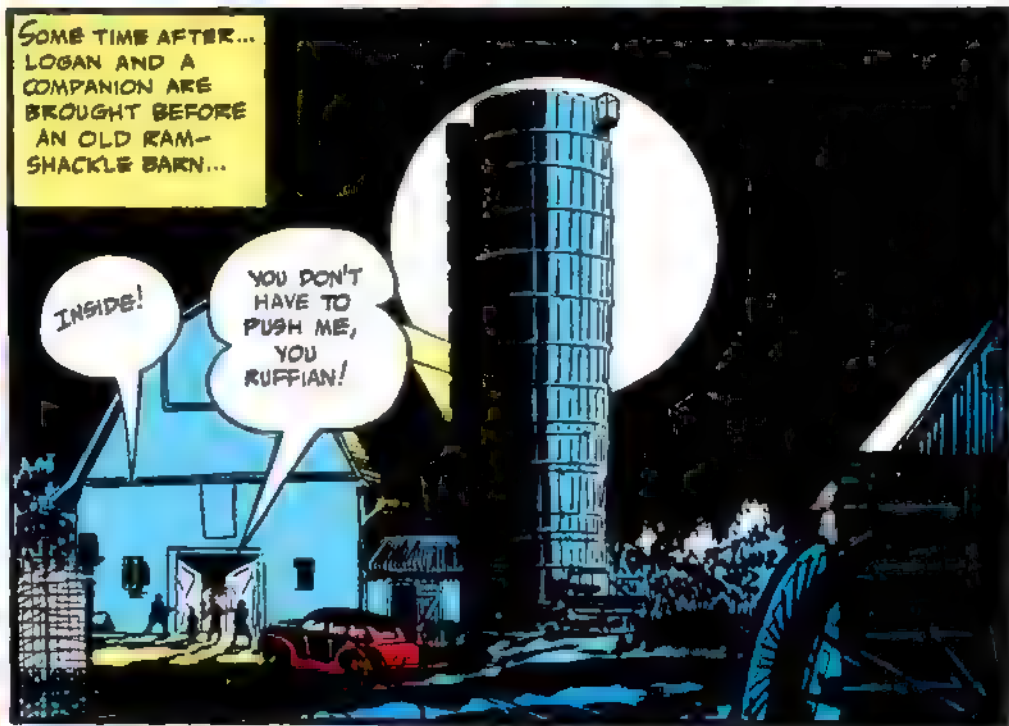
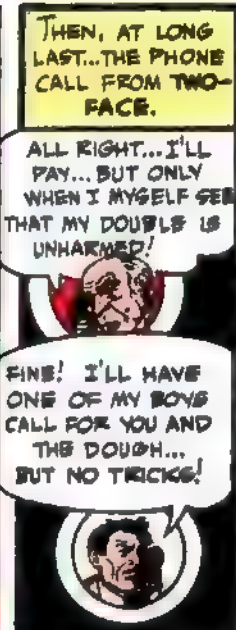
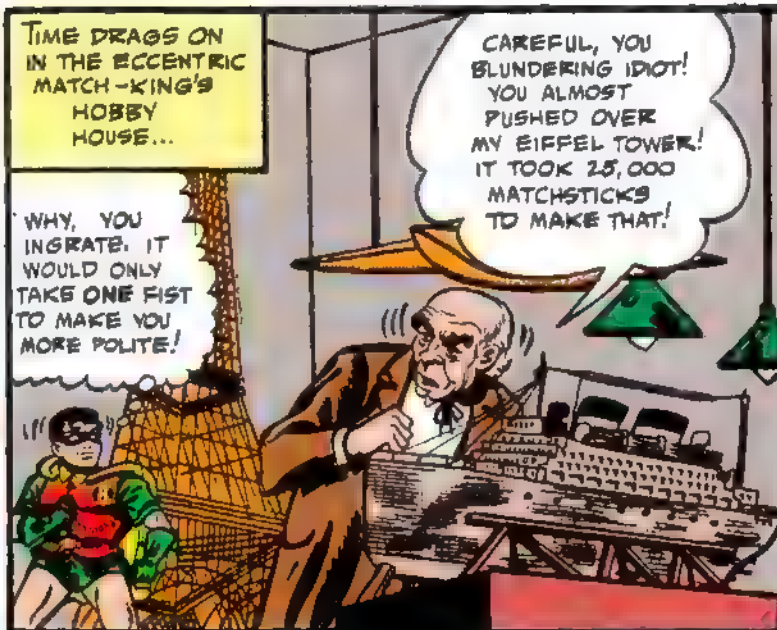
YES... MY DOUBLE! I HATE GOING TO STUFFY DINNERS, CLUBS!... I SEND MY DOUBLE IN MY PLACE!... HE'S PERFECTLY TRAINED!... FOOLS MY BEST FRIENDS. HEE! HEE!

THE GROUCHY MILLIONAIRE THEN HANDS BATMAN A PAPER...

I've got you double! It'll cost you \$200,000 to get him back. See call you tonight for an answer—
(signed) Two-Face

TWO-FACE! BUT HOW DID HE KNOW ABOUT THE DOUBLE IF IT WAS SUCH A SECRET?

WHEN HE WAS HARVEY KENT, D.A., I CONFIDED IN HIM... HE PROMISED TO KEEP MY SECRET... NOW HE'S TAKING ADVANTAGE OF IT. HMPH!





C'MON, ROBIN...
LET'S TAKE
THE STARCH
OUT OF
THEM!

I'M
KNOCKING
THE AIR
OUT OF
THEM!



TWO-FACE,
I'M GOING
TO END
YOUR CRIME
CAREER RIGHT
NOW!

AND
I'M GONNA
END
YOURS,
BATMAN!



Suddenly...
A PITCHFORK
HISSES AT THE
COWARDLY KILLER,
PINING HIS
SLEEVE TO THE
WALL!...



WHAT SORT OF
ADVENTURE WOULD
THIS BE IF BATMAN
OR ROBIN DIDN'T
SWING ON A ROPE
AT LEAST
ONCE?

THEN...
CATASTROPHE!
AN AVALANCHE
OF HAY SPILLS
OVER ROBIN...

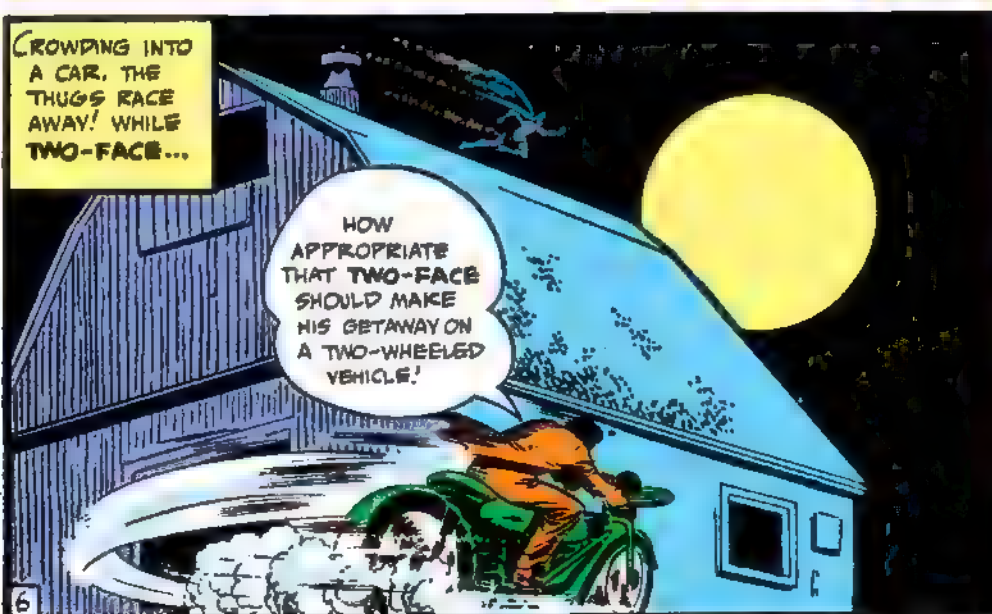


GLUB...
GLUB...

HAW!
DON'T TELL
ME THAT AIN'T
HAY, BROTHER!

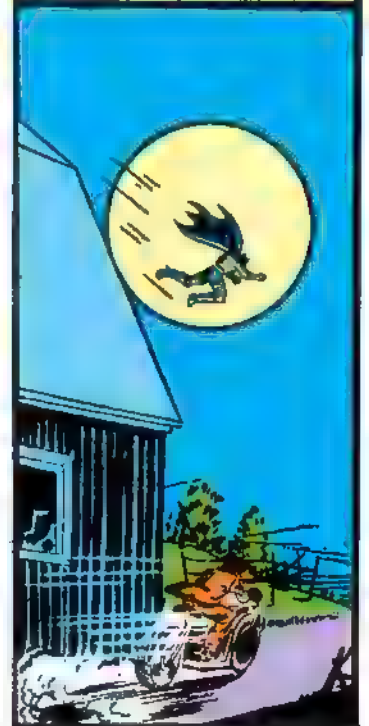
CUT THE PUNNING! GET
GOING WHILE THE GOING'S
GOOD! WE'LL SPLIT UP AS
PLANNED ORIGINALLY IN
CASE POLICE ARE ABOUT!

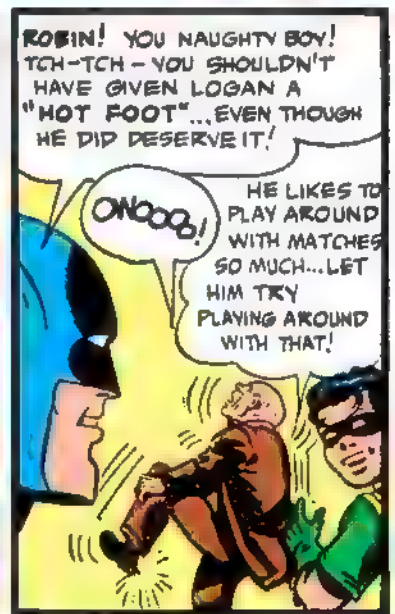
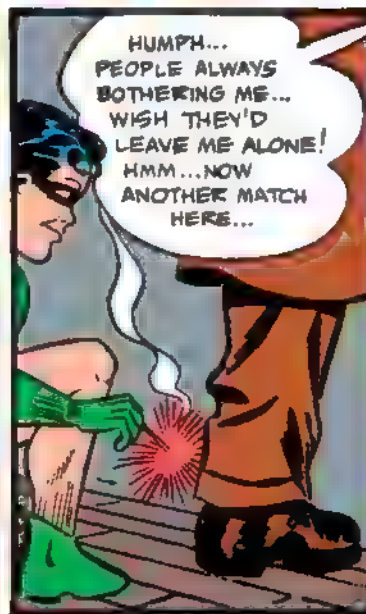
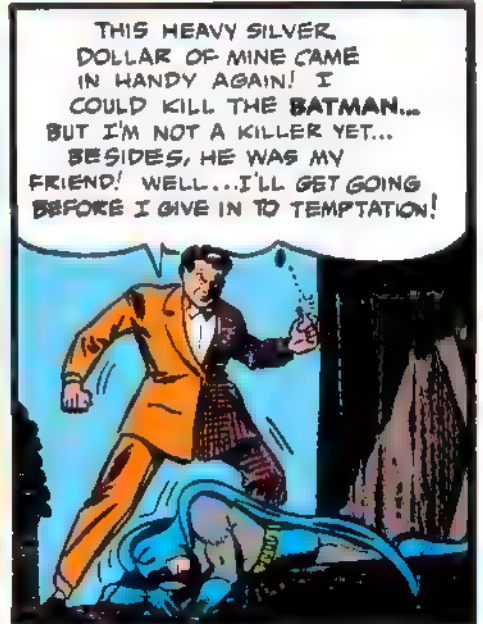
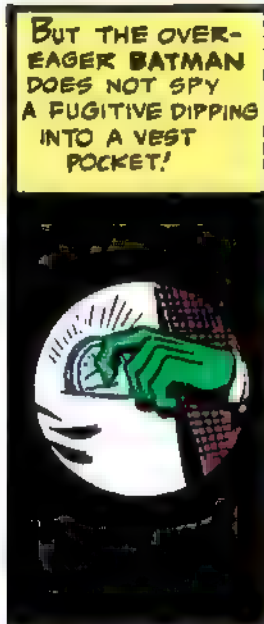
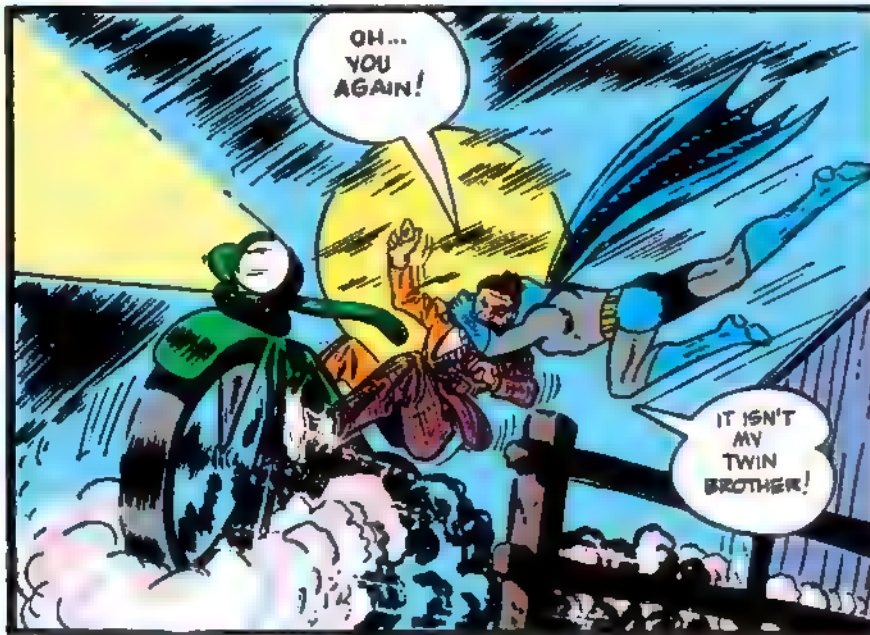
A FLYING TAKE-OFF...AND
A WING-CAPED SHAPE
HURTTLES THROUGH EMPTY
SPACE!

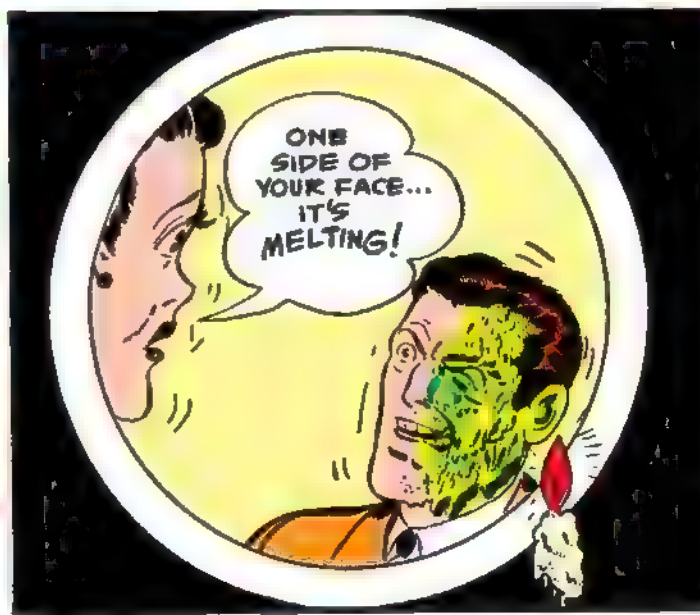
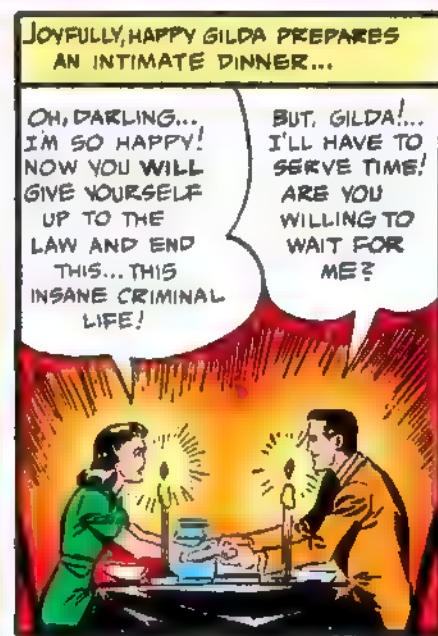
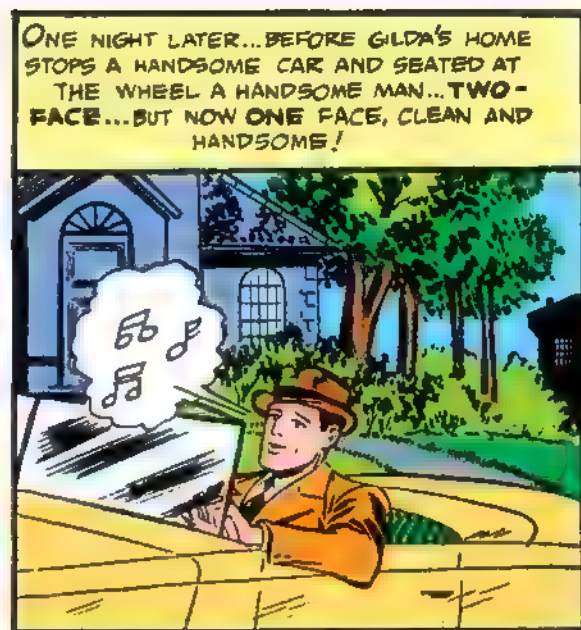
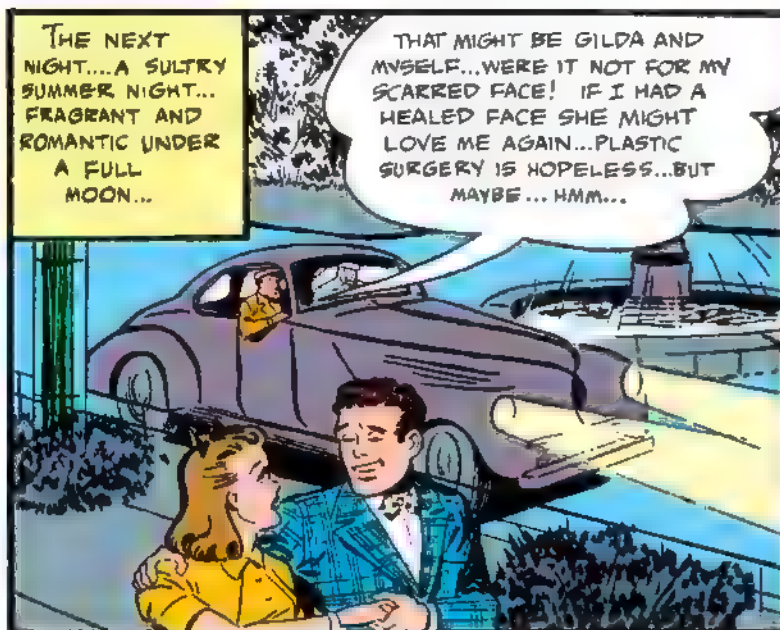


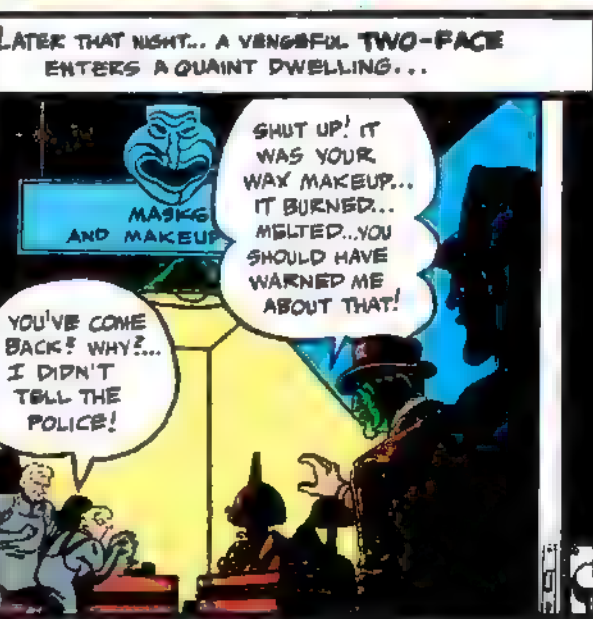
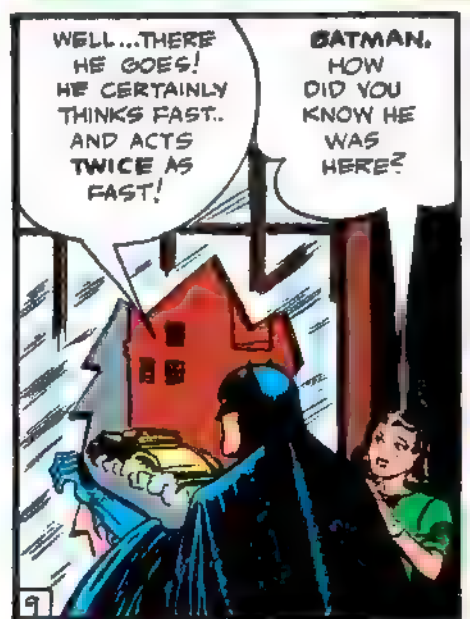
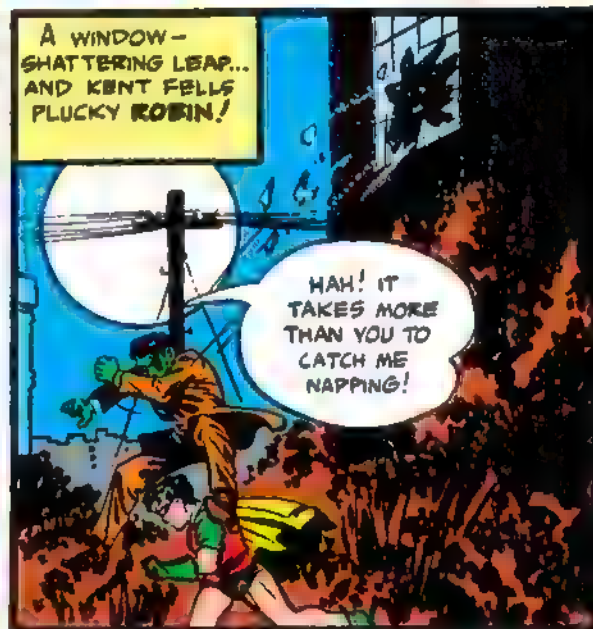
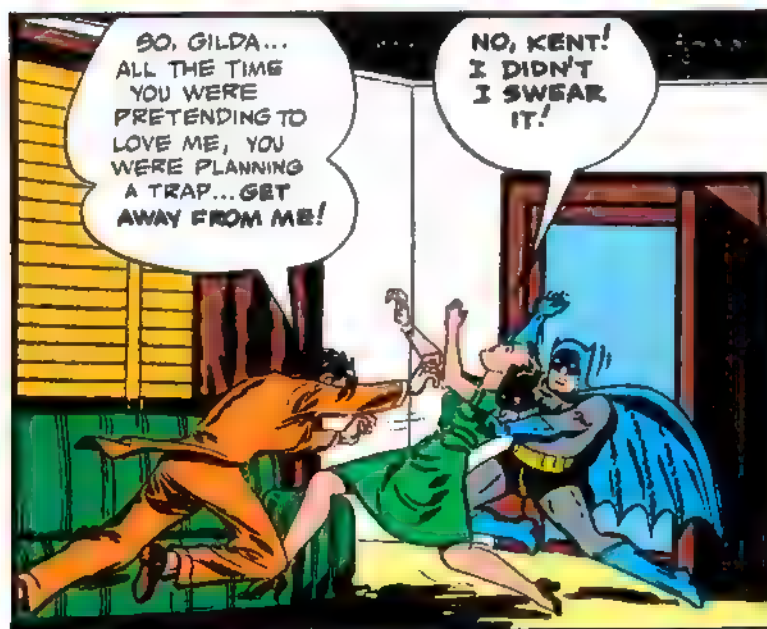
CROWDING INTO
A CAR, THE
THUGS RACE
AWAY! WHILE
TWO-FACE...

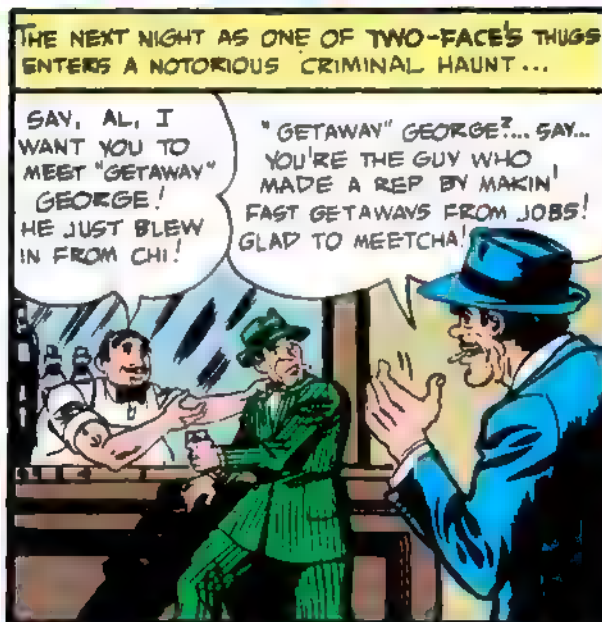
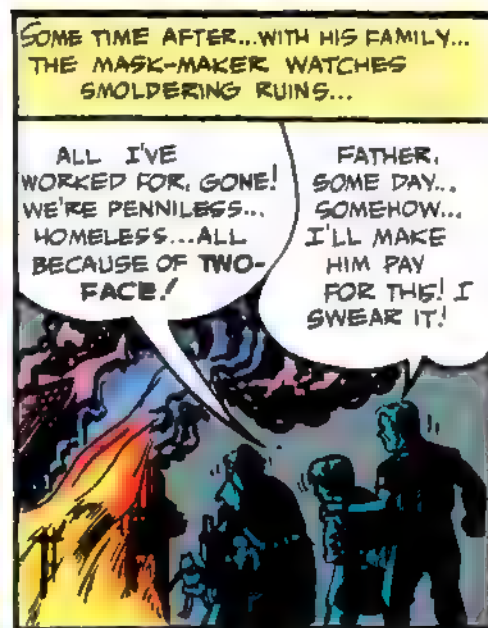
HOW
APPROPRIATE
THAT TWO-FACE
SHOULD MAKE
HIS GETAWAY ON
A TWO-WHEELED
VEHICLE!

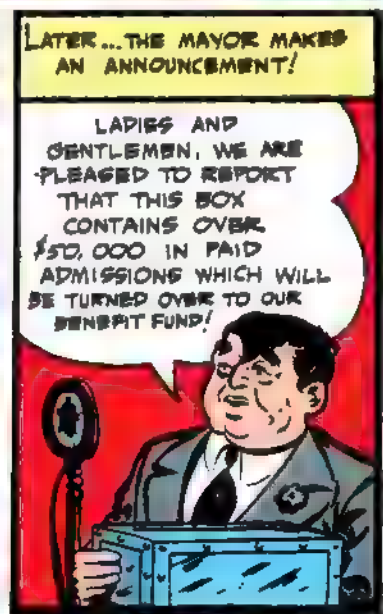
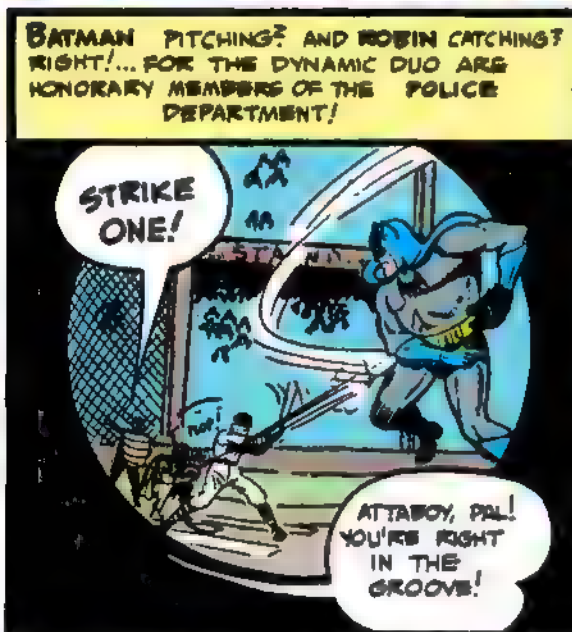
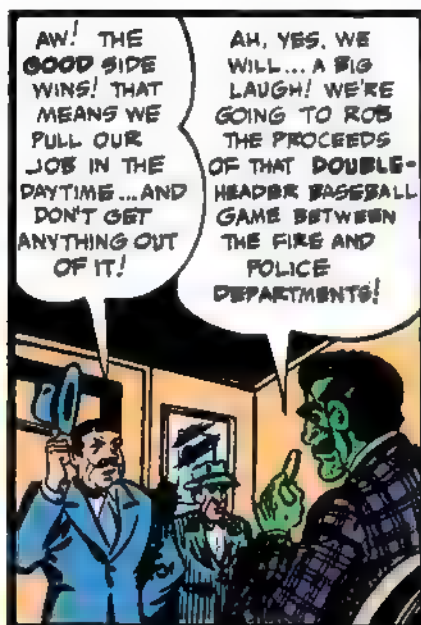












Suddenly... CHARGING FROM THE STADIUM SEATS... DESCEND TWO-FACE AND COMPANY!

I'LL TAKE THAT, MR. MAYOR! IF ANYBODY SO MUCH AS TWITCHES, MY MEN WILL MACHINE-GUN THE AUDIENCE!

BUT SUDDENLY...A TON OF WATER BATTERS THE THUGS TO SEND THEM ROLLING LIKE TUMBLE-WEED!

SURPRISE! SURPRISE! WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU, TWO-FACE!

GLUG!

STRIKE ONE...TWO AND THREE! YOU'RE ALL OUT!

AH! A DOUBLE-PLAY!

AS POLICE SURROUND TWO-FACE, THE MAD-MAN ACTS!

STOP...OR I'LL BLOW THE MAYOR'S HEAD OFF! I'M A DESPERATE MAN AND I WANT TO GET AWAY FROM HERE!

DON'T, MEN! HE MEANS IT!

USING THE MAYOR AS A SHIELD, TWO-FACE GAINS THE EXIT...

ALL RIGHT, "GETAWAY!" LET'S SEE YOU LIVE UP TO YOUR NAME!

SOME TIME AFTER... AT TWO-FACE'S HIDEOUT...

A TRAP! ROBIN AND THE POLICE WERE EXPECTING US...BUT HOW? UNLESS... SOMEONE SQUEALED! BUT ALL THE BOYS WERE CAPTURED EXCEPT YOU!

SLOWLY, A GLIMMER OF DOUBT FORMS IN TWO-FACE'S MIND.

ALL EXCEPT YOU! AND WHERE WAS BATMAN ALL THE TIME IN THAT STADIUM FIGHT? MAYBE I WAS RIGHT... MAYBE YOU'RE THE BATMAN AFTER ALL!



PUTTY! A FALSE NOSE! YOU ARE WEARING MAKEUP! DON'T MOVE, BATMAN...I'M GOING TO SEE WHAT YOUR REAL FACE LOOKS LIKE!



MAKEUP AND WIG FEEL OFF... AND A FACE UNCOVERED... THE FACE OF...

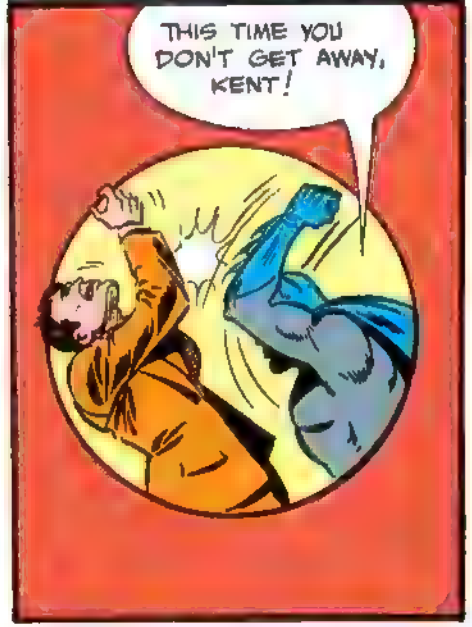
THE MASK-MAKER'S SON! THEN, YOU'RE NOT THE BATMAN, AFTER ALL!



BUT... I AM!



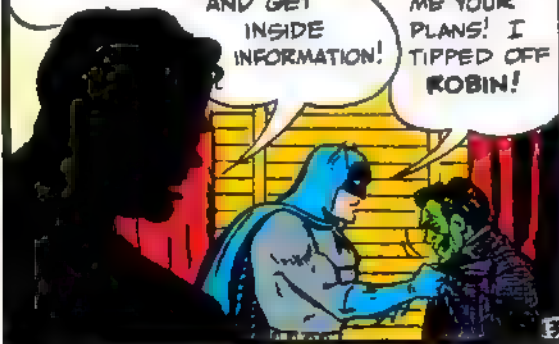
THIS TIME YOU DON'T GET AWAY, KENT!



A THOROUGHLY SUBDUED TWO-FACE LISTENS IN SURPRISE...

I WANTED TO GET EVEN WITH YOU FOR RUINING MY FATHER, SO I MADE UP AS "GETAWAY" TO GET INTO YOUR MOB AND GET INSIDE INFORMATION!

AT THE BALL GAME, HE MANAGED TO SLIP AWAY AND TOLD ME YOUR PLANS! I TIPPED OFF ROBIN!



BUT TO CHECK-MATE YOU, I HID IN THE TRUNK OF YOUR CAR! SO HERE I AM... AND YOU'RE GOING TO JAIL!

HA! WHAT IRONY! I BASED ALL MY CRIMES ON THE NUMBER TWO AND END UP FINALLY BEING DOUBLE-CROSSED BY ONE OF MY OWN MOB!



AND SO, AT LONG LAST, TWO-FACE GOES TO JAIL...

TWO-FACE... YOUR DOUBLE-LIFE IS OVER! FROM NOW ON, YOU'LL LEAD ONLY ONE EXISTENCE... AS HARVEY KENT, PRISONER!

THAT'S ONLY YOUR SIDE OF THE STORY! BUT THERE ARE ALWAYS TWO SIDES TO A STORY. I'LL ESCAPE, BATMAN...AND I'LL BET YOU ON THAT, DOUBLE OR NOTHING!



The End

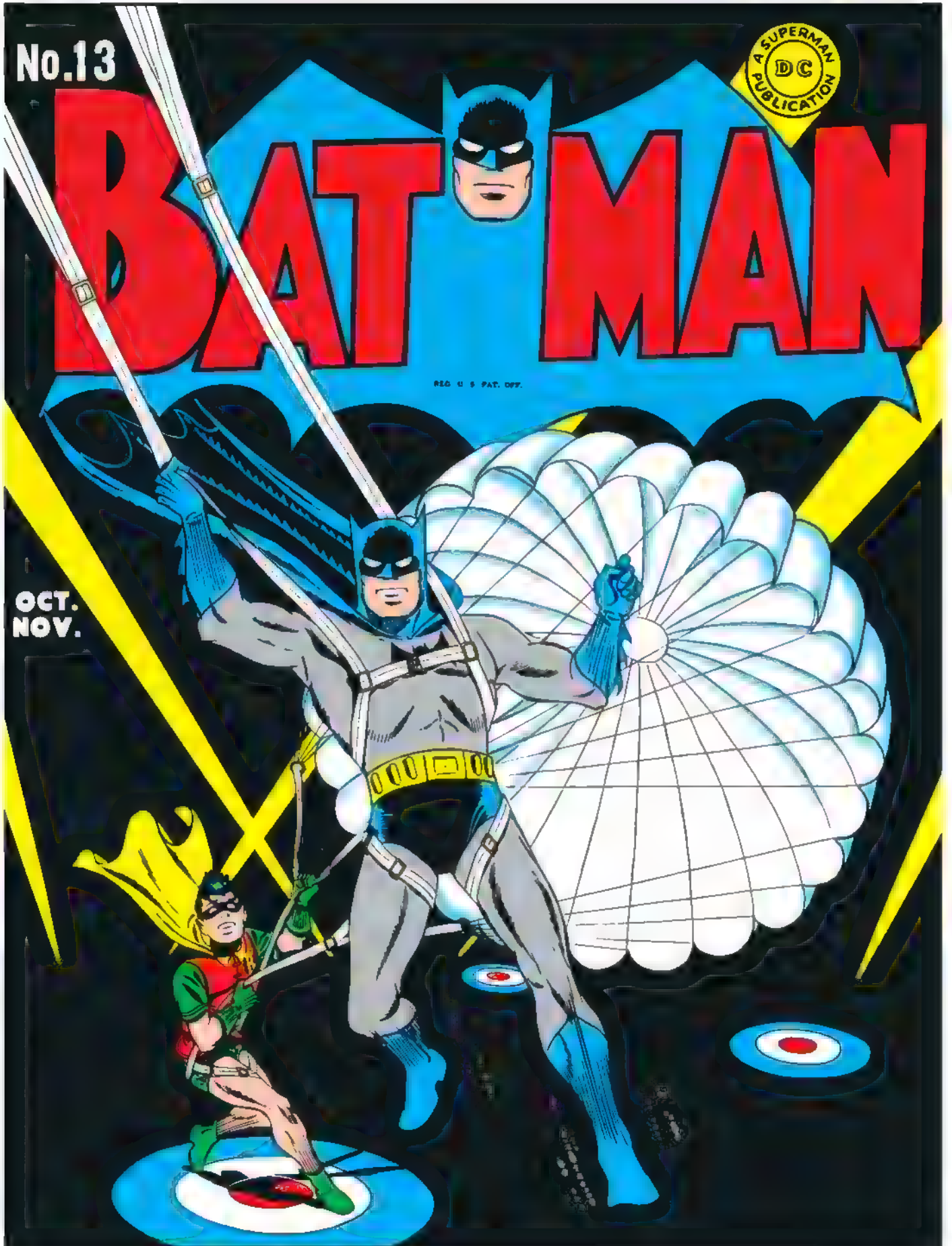
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BATMAN

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

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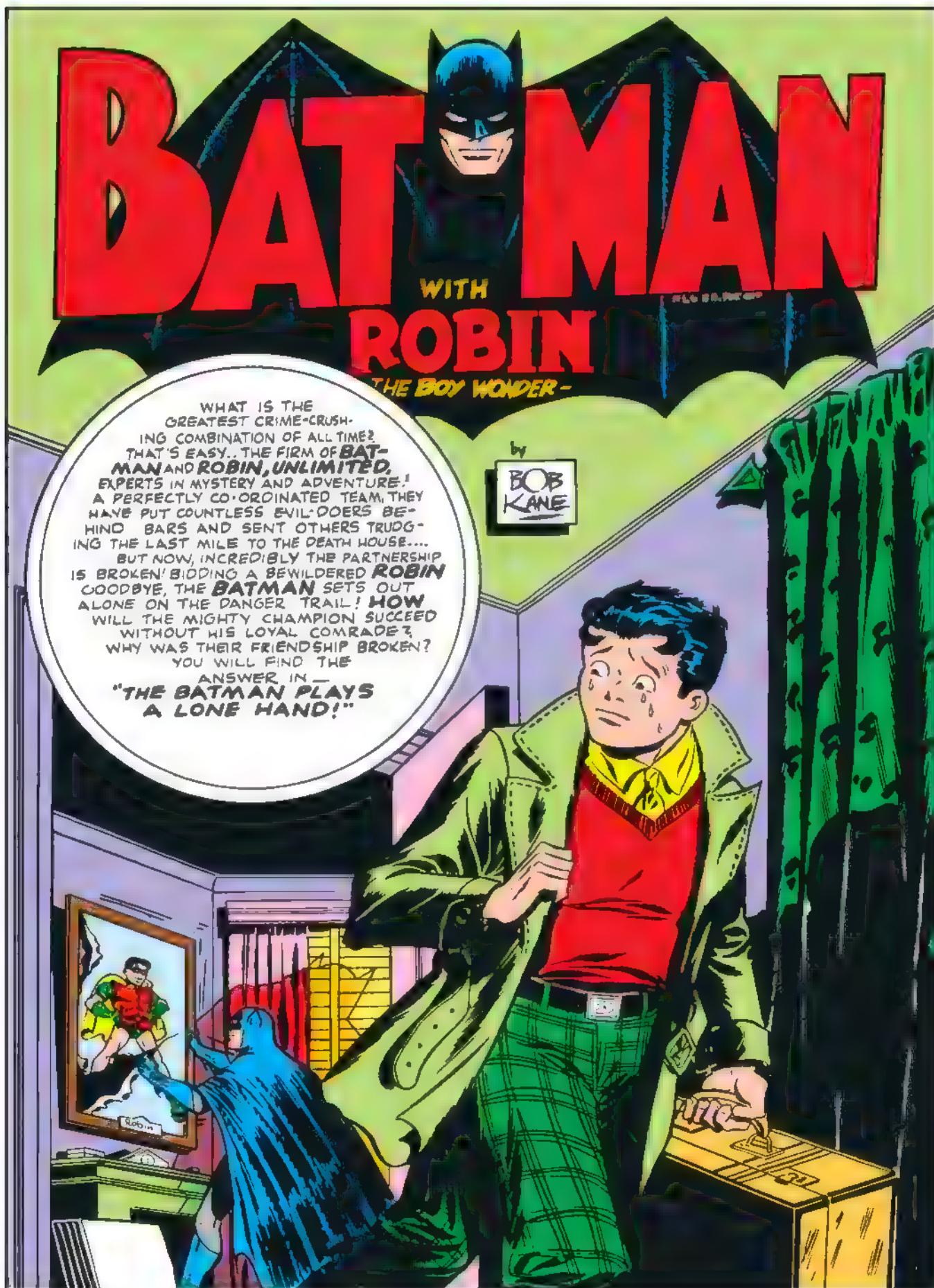


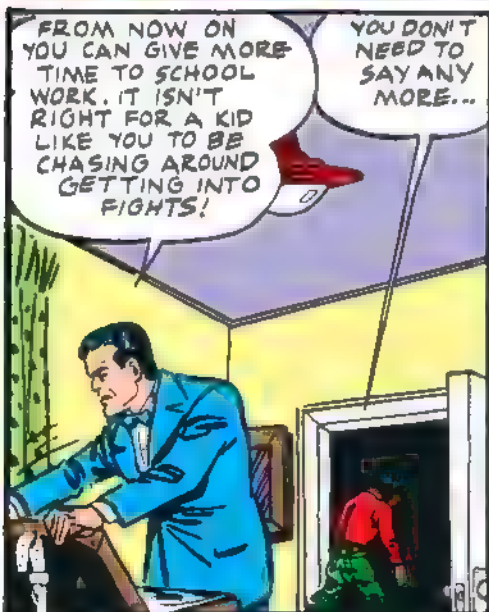
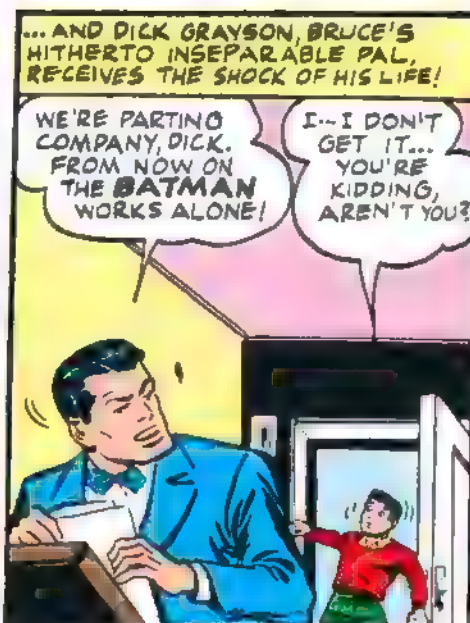
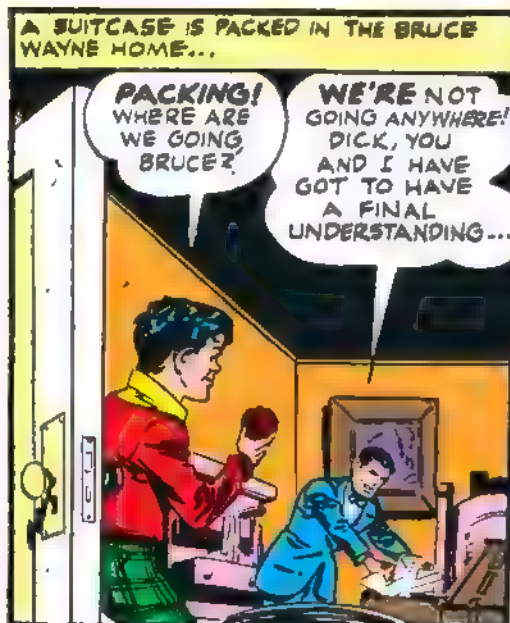
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER -

WHAT IS THE
GREATEST CRIME-CRUSH-
ING COMBINATION OF ALL TIME?
THAT'S EASY... THE FIRM OF **BAT-
MAN AND ROBIN, UNLIMITED**,
EXPERTS IN MYSTERY AND ADVENTURE!
A PERFECTLY CO-ORDINATED TEAM, THEY
HAVE PUT COUNTLESS EVIL-DOERS BE-
HIND BARS AND SENT OTHERS TRUDG-
ING THE LAST MILE TO THE DEATH HOUSE....
BUT NOW, INCREDIBLY THE PARTNERSHIP
IS BROKEN! BIDDING A BEWILDERED **ROBIN**
GOODBYE, THE **BATMAN** SETS OUT
ALONE ON THE DANGER TRAIL! **HOW**
WILL THE MIGHTY CHAMPION SUCCEED
WITHOUT HIS LOYAL COMRADE?
WHY WAS THEIR FRIENDSHIP BROKEN?
YOU WILL FIND THE
ANSWER IN -
**"THE BATMAN PLAYS
A LONE HAND!"**

by
**BOB
KANE**





HAS ROBIN THE BOY WONDER FOUGHT HIS LAST GALLANT BATTLE AGAINST INJUSTICE AT THE SIDE OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN?... THE LOYAL HEART OF THE LAD IS CLOSE TO BREAKING AS HIS BEWILDERED MIND SEEKS TO ESCAPE THE DRABNESS OF THE PRESENT BY REVIEWING GLAMOROUS SCENES FROM THE PAST...

HE CALLED ME A NUISANCE, AFTER ALL THE TIMES I'VE STOOD BY HIM WHEN THINGS LOOKED HOPELESS...

... WHEN THE JOKER THOUGHT HE HAD US TRAPPED AND WAS GOING TO GET RID OF US FOR GOOD...

... WHEN THE PENGUIN PULLED SURPRISES OUT OF THAT DEADLY UMBRELLA OF HIS...

... AND MORE TIMES THAN I CAN COUNT IF IT HADN'T BEEN FOR ME, THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN ANY MORE BATMAN!

IT ISN'T TRUE (SOB) I WASN'T EVER IN HIS WAY! HE JUST (SOB) HE JUST DOESN'T LIKE ME ANY MORE!

SUSPICION REARS ITS UGLY HEAD AS THE BOY'S GRIEF WEARS ITSELF OUT...
OR MAYBE HE WANTS ALL THE GLORY FOR HIMSELF! MAYBE HE THOUGHT ROBIN WAS GETTING TOO POPULAR!

AND INEVITABLY COMES BLIND, UNREASONING ANGER...
I DON'T WANT HIS MONEY AND I WON'T LIVE IN HIS HOUSE! I'LL RUN AWAY AND SHOW HIM I CAN TAKE CARE OF MYSELF!

NIGHT... AND A HOMELESS WAIF TRUDGES THE POORER STREETS OF GOTHAM CITY...

RESCUE MISSION
LODGING ROOMS

KID, COULD YA 'SPARE A NICKEL FOR CAWFFEE?

I WOULD, GLADLY-- ONLY I HAVEN'T GOT A CENT!

A SEARCHLIGHT BEAM STABS UPWARD, PAINTING A FAMILIAR SYMBOL AGAINST THE BLACK SKY...

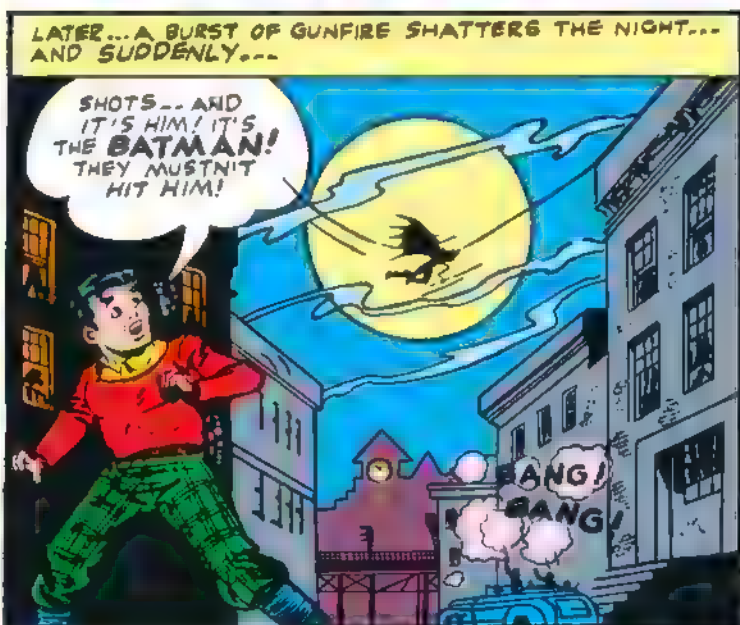
COMMISSIONER GORDON'S SIGNAL! HE NEEDS THE BATMAN AND ROB-- I MEAN, THE BATMAN!



JIMMINY--TH' BATMAN'S GOIN' OUT AFTER SOME CROOKS!

LUCKY, EH? IF THEY ONLY KNEW!

AIN'T ROBIN A LUCKY KID TO BE WITH HIM?



LATER... A BURST OF GUNFIRE SHATTERS THE NIGHT... AND SUDDENLY...

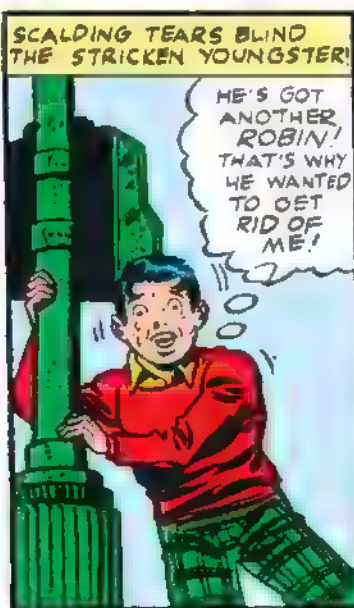
SHOTS-- AND IT'S HIM! IT'S THE BATMAN! THEY MUSTN'T HIT HIM!

BANG!
BANG!



BUT THE NEXT INSTANT, THE THRILL THAT TINGLED THROUGH DICK IS CRUSHED BENEATH THE CRUELEST BLOW OF ALL!

WHA--? ANOTHER BOY IN A UNIFORM LIKE MINE, WORKING WITH THE BATMAN!... BUT IT CAN'T BE! IT CAN'T BE!

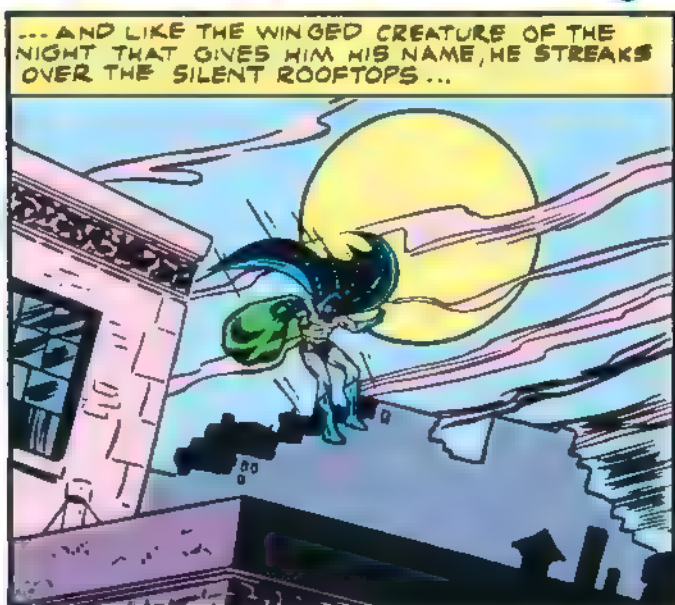
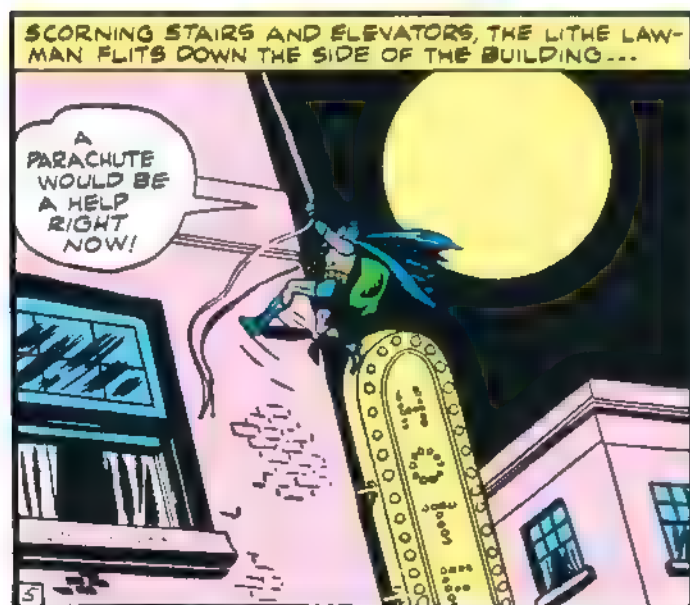
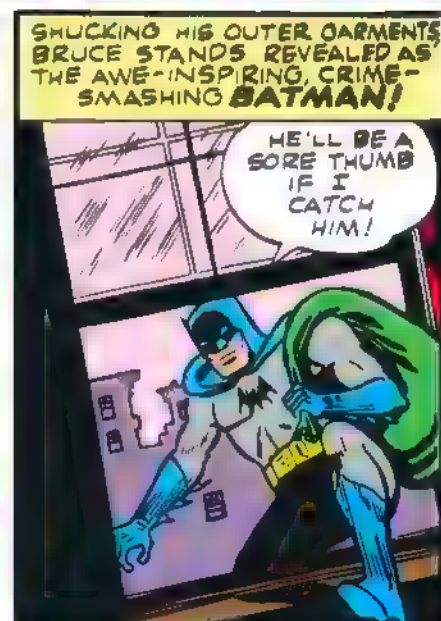
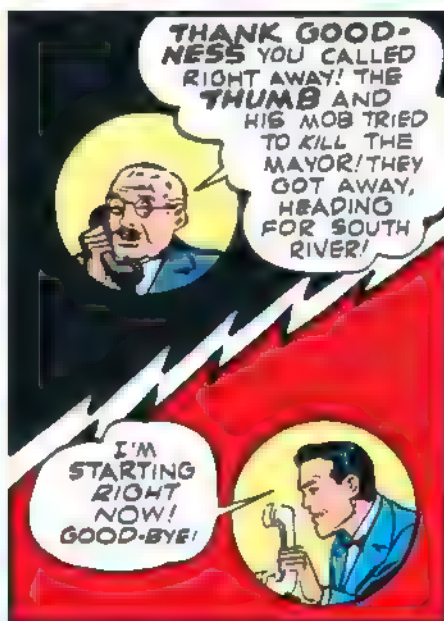


SCALDING TEARS BLIND THE STRICKEN YOUNGSTER!

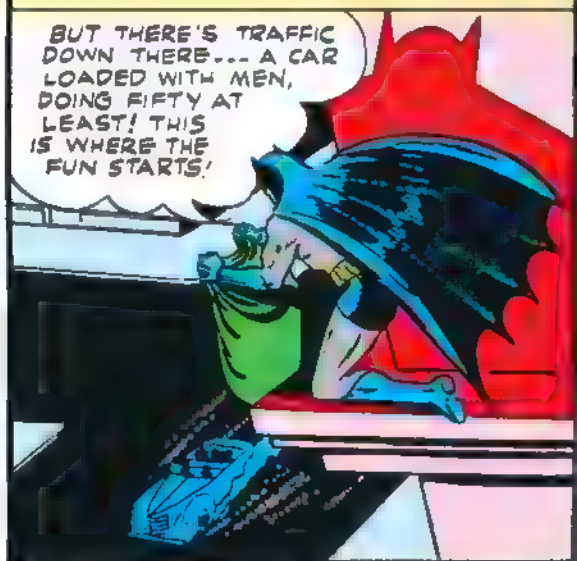
HE'S GOT ANOTHER ROBIN! THAT'S WHY HE WANTED TO GET RID OF ME!



BET THAT LITTLE BRAT HASN'T A BRAIN IN HIS HEAD! BET I COULD LICK HIM WITH ONE HAND!



FROM A PRECARIOUS PERCH, HIS KEEN EYES
SIGHT A SPEEDING VEHICLE....



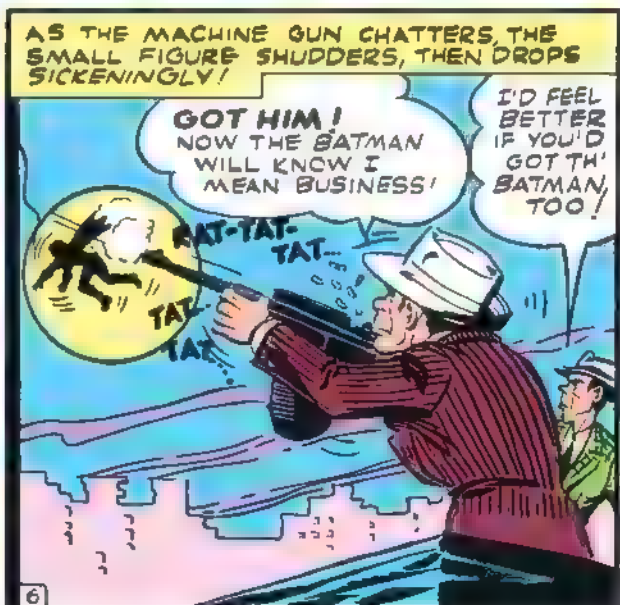
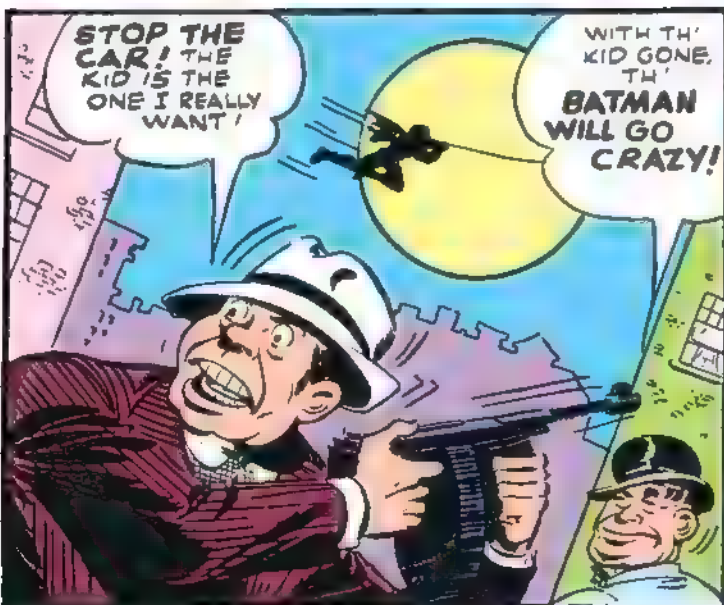
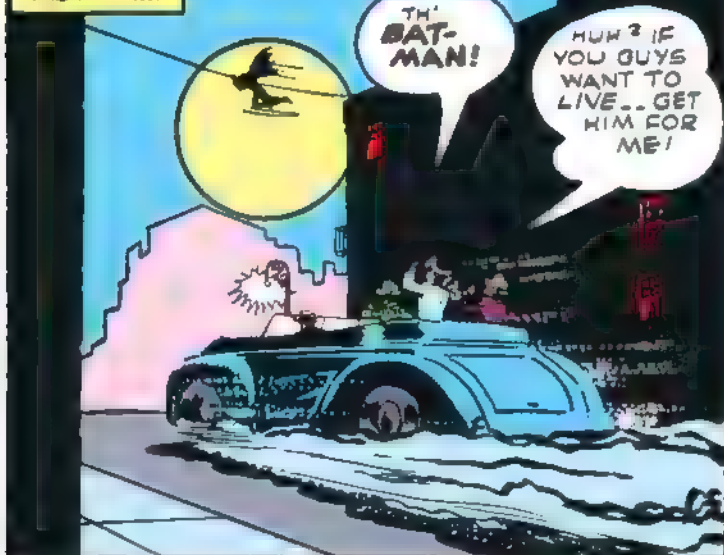
THE THUMB, DAPPER DESPERADO
WHO SEEKS TO SPREAD A REIGN
OF TERROR OVER GOTHAM CITY,
SCOLDS HIS HENCHMEN...

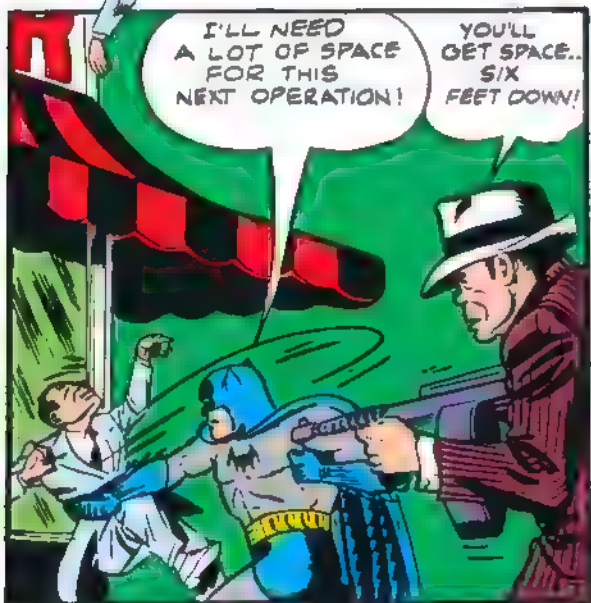
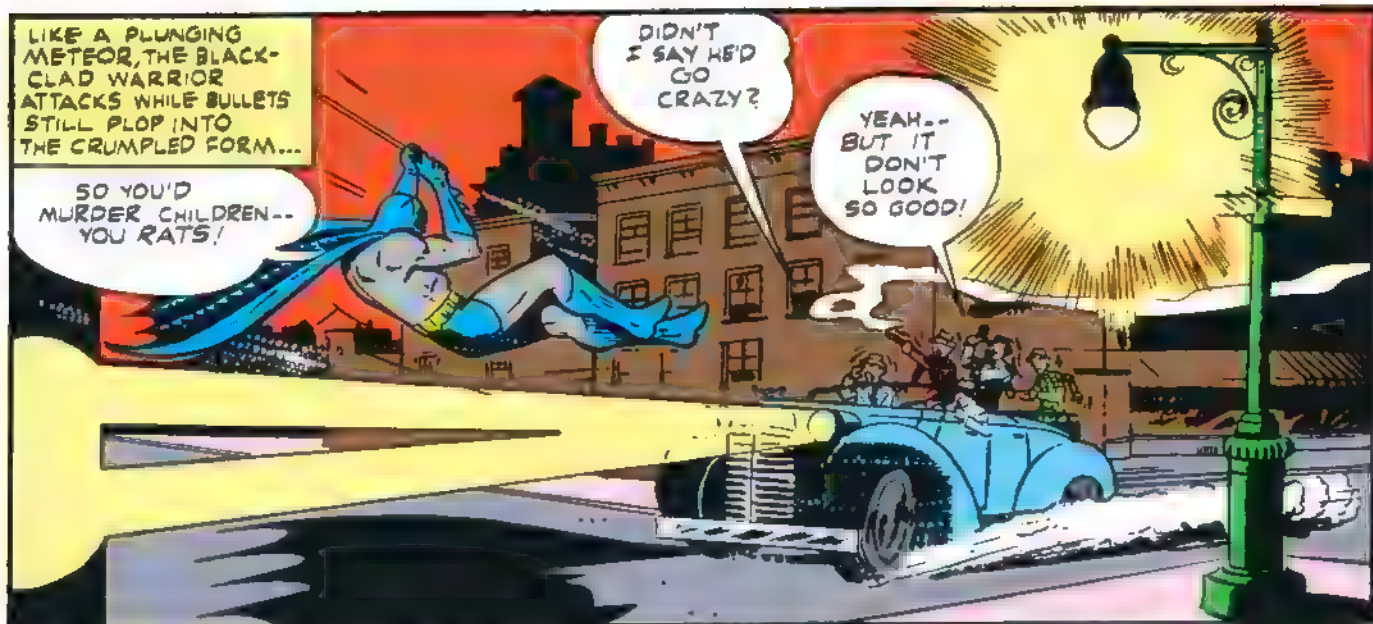


NO ALIBIS!
I'LL SHOW YOU
HOW YOU
SHOULD HAVE
DONE IT!



AT THAT
INSTANT...





BEFORE THE STUNNED CHAMPION CAN RECOVER, THE THUMB AND HIS WIRELINGS HAVE FLED...

THAT SHOOTING WILL BRING THE COPS! STEP ON IT!

NO CHANCE OF CATCHING THEM--BUT I'LL FIND THEIR HIDEOUT IF IT TAKES A LIFETIME!

SLOWLY, THE BATMAN APPROACHES THE BULLET-RIDDLED FIGURE ON THE SIDEWALK...

KILLERS WHO WOULD DELIBERATELY MURDER A BOY DON'T DESERVE THE SLIGHTEST CONSIDERATION!

HIS MUSCULAR SHOULDERS SHAKE AS HE CRADLES THE STILL FORM IN HIS ARMS... BUT WHAT'S THIS? HE'S LAUGHING!!

TOWING THIS DUMMY BEHIND ME WITH A WIRE CERTAINLY FOOLED THEM! WHILE THEY BLASTED AT IT, I HAD A CHANCE TO TACKLE THEM BY SURPRISE!

THERE IS NO LAUGHTER IN THE SECRET STRONGHOLD OF THE THUMB, HOWEVER...

THE BATMAN WON'T GIVE US A MINUTE'S PEACE FROM NOW ON! I'LL NEVER GET THIS TOWN UNDER MY THUMB WHILE HE'S ALIVE!

YEAH--WE GOTTA POLISH HIM OFF-- BUT HOW?

WE DON'T WANT ANOTHER FIGHT-- HE CAN MOVE LIKE LIGHTNING AND HIT LIKE A THUNDERBOLT!

YA DON'T HAVE TO WISE US UP TO WHAT WE ALREADY KNOW!

I'VE GOT IT! WE'LL HAVE HIM PAY US A SOCIAL CALL!

HAVE YA GONE BATTY?

SNAP!

NEXT MORNING...

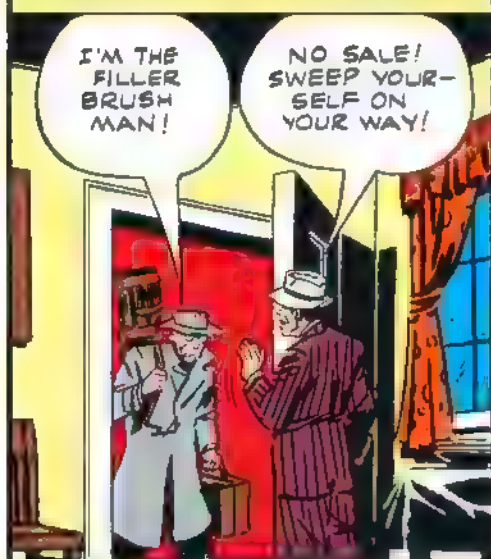
HMMM! A TRAP, OF COURSE... BUT IT'S MY ONLY CHANCE TO LOCATE THE THUMB BEFORE HE CARRIES OUT ANY MORE OF HIS MURDEROUS SCHEMES!

ADVERTISEMENT: BATMAN! INTERESTING INFORMATION AWAITS YOU AT 44 ARDLEST. ...A FRIEND.

MEANWHILE, AT THE THUMB'S HIDEOUT, PREPARATIONS ARE MADE TO RECEIVE THE DISTINGUISHED VISITOR...

TH' THUMB'S WATCHIN' THE BACK DOOR AN' MONK TH' FRONT, AN' I'M UP HERE IN CASE HE TRIES ANY AERIAL TRICKS-- TH' POOR SAP AIN'T GOT A CHANCE!

A PEDDLER AT THE KITCHEN DOOR FINDS AN UNPROMISING PROSPECT...



I'M THE FILLER BRUSH MAN!

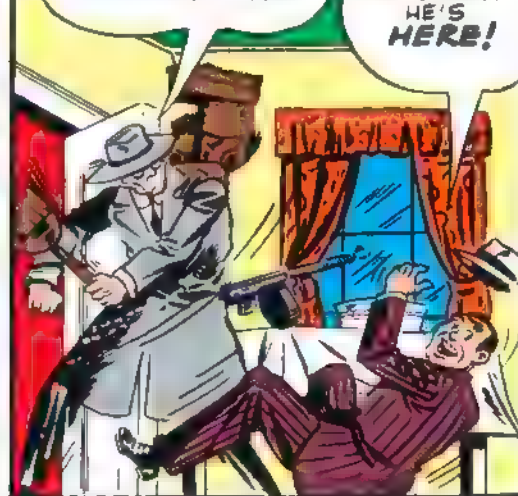
NO SALE! SWEEP YOURSELF ON YOUR WAY!

YOU CAN'T BRUSH ME OFF THAT SIMPLY!

SAY... ARE YOU TIRED OF LIVING?

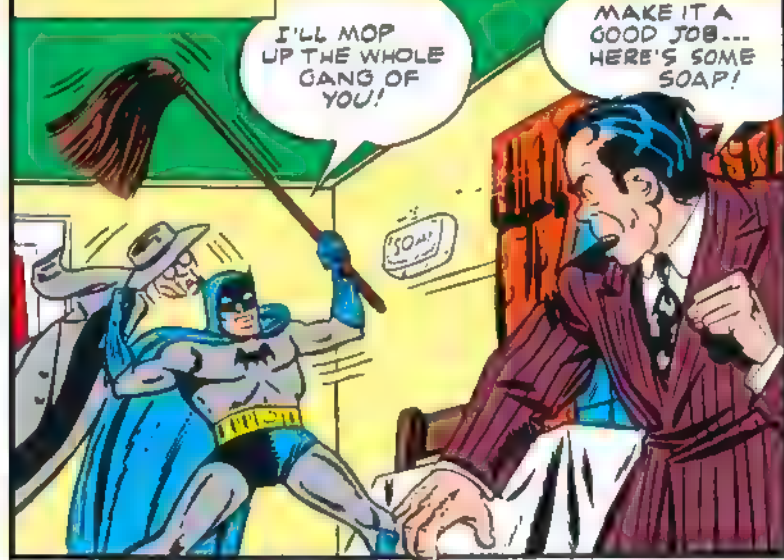


I INSIST ON DEMONSTRATING THE NEWEST WRINKLES IN HOUSECLEANING!



MONK! SLASHER! HE'S HERE!

FLINGING ASIDE HIS DISGUISE, THE **BATMAN** GIRDS FOR BATTLE...



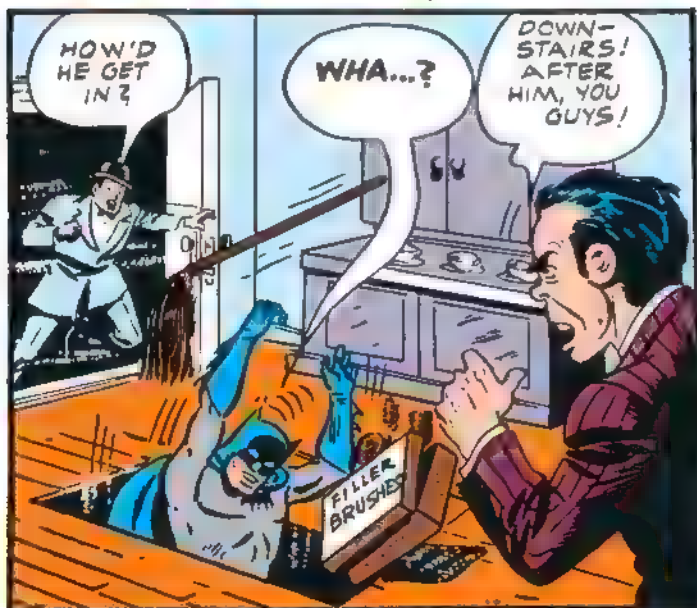
I'LL MOP UP THE WHOLE GANG OF YOU!

MAKE IT A GOOD JOB... HERE'S SOME SOAP!



NO SOAP!

THEN PERHAPS YOU'D LIKE TO START WITH THE CELLAR!



HOW'D HE GET IN?

WHA...?

DOWN-STAIRS! AFTER HIM, YOU GUYS!

THE FORCE OF THE FALL STUNS THE **BATMAN**...



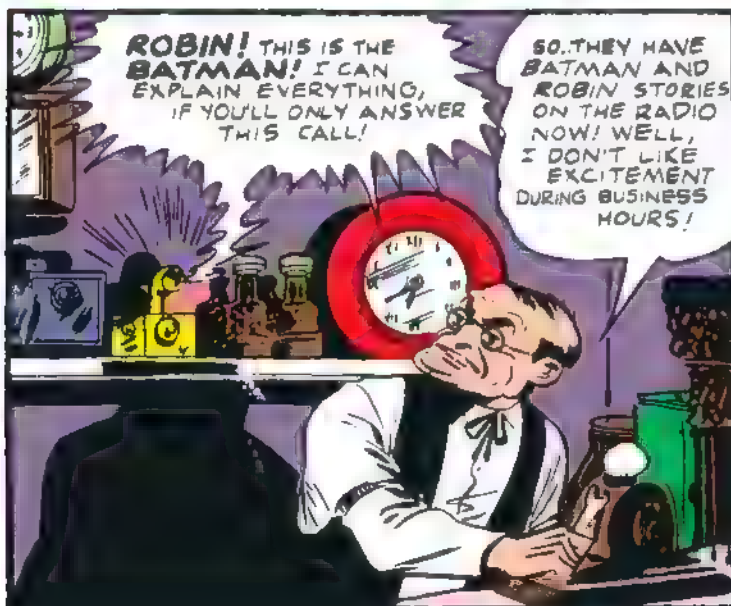
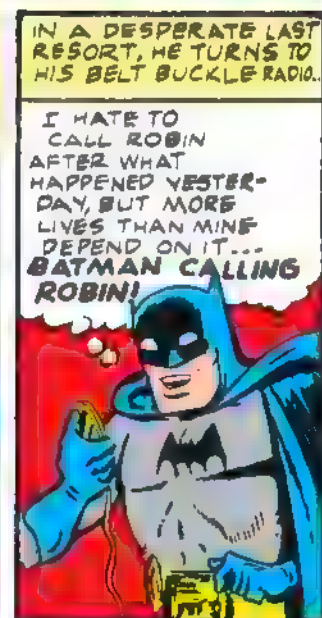
GRAB HIM BEFORE HE COMES TO!

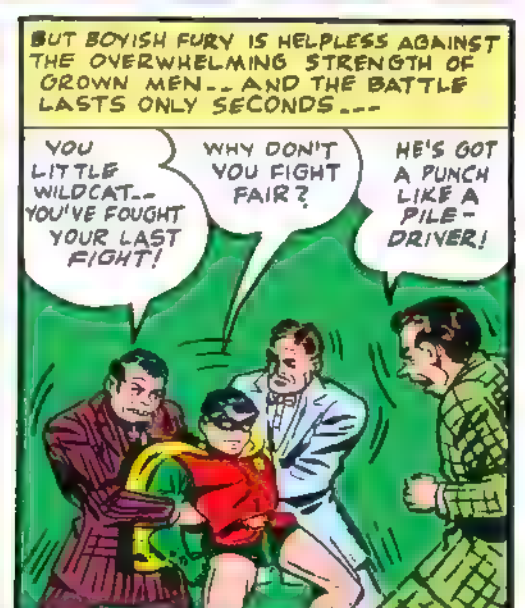
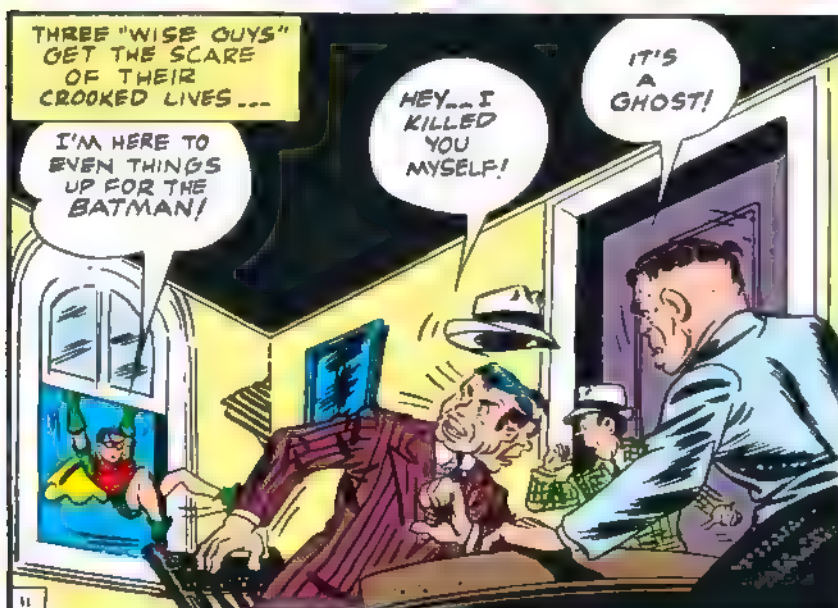
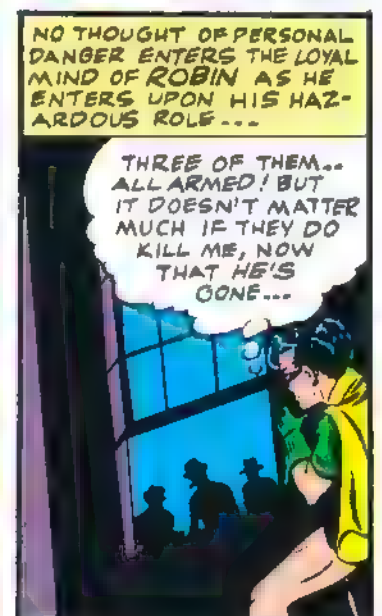
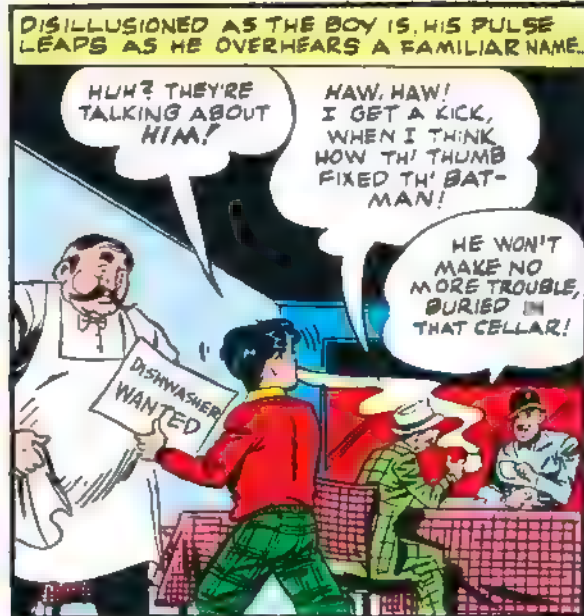
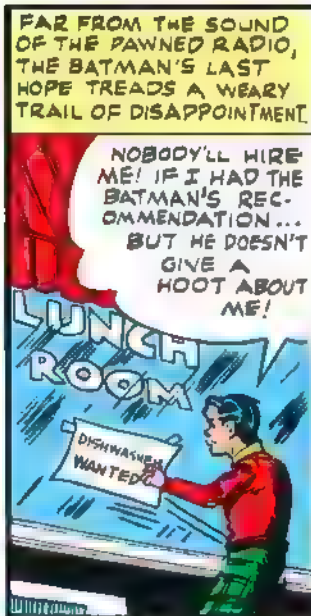
AND WHEN CONSCIOUSNESS RETURNS...

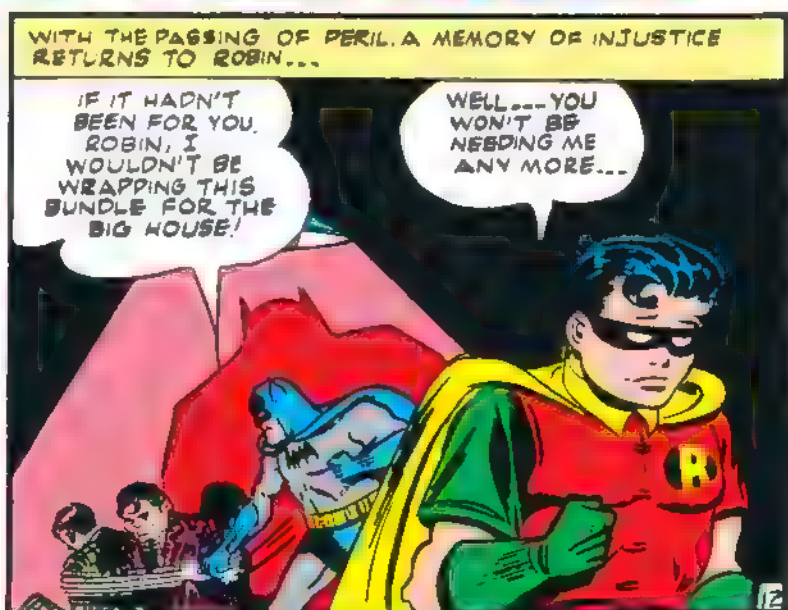
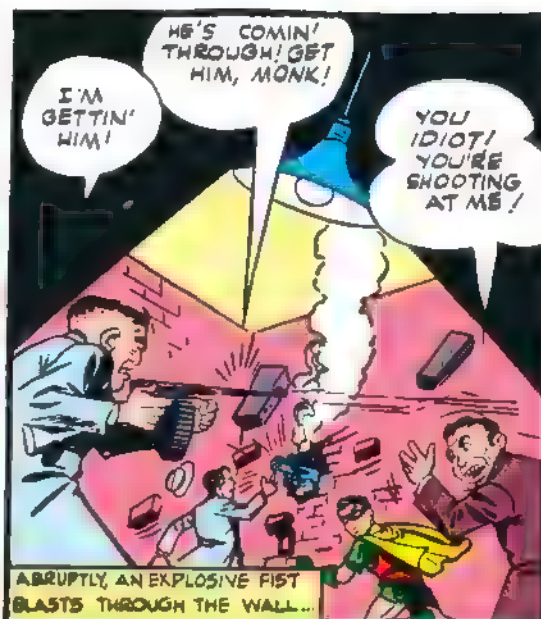
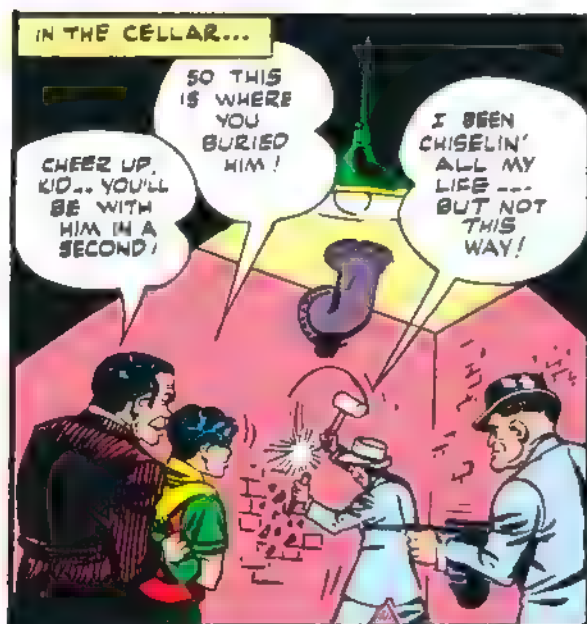


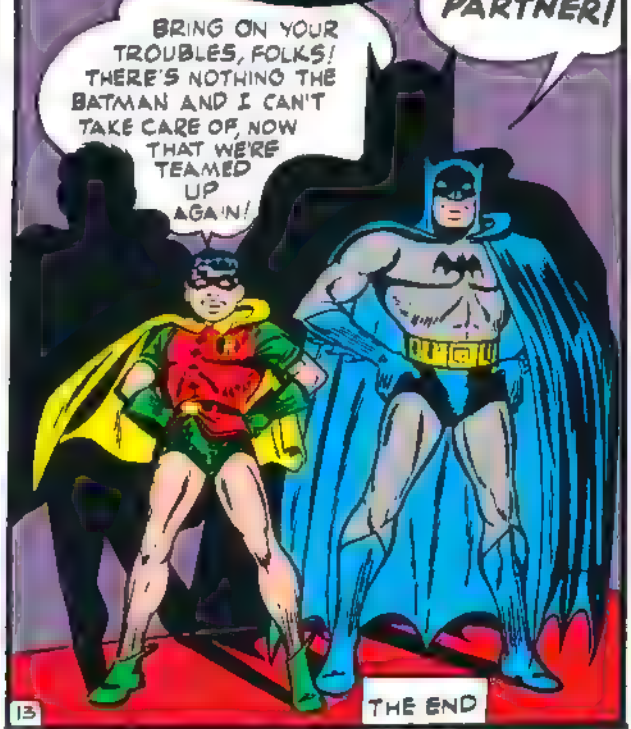
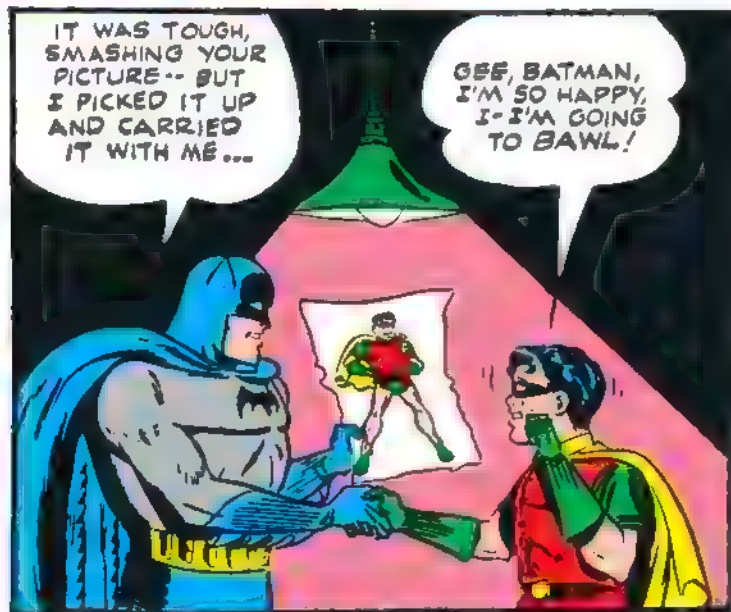
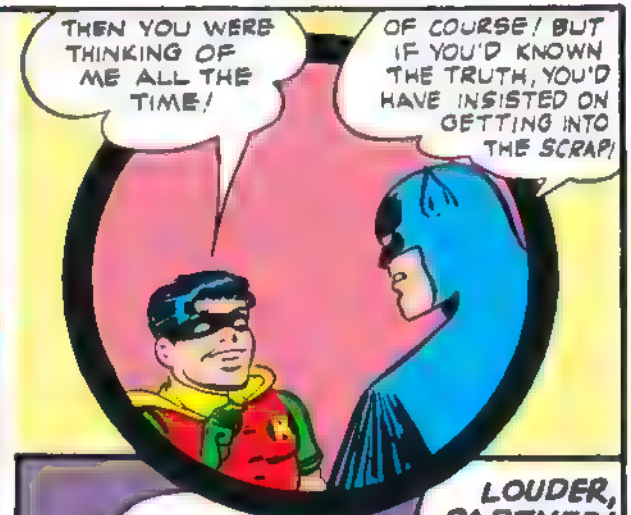
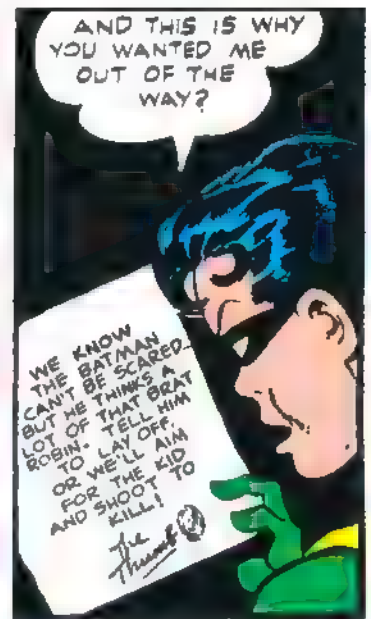
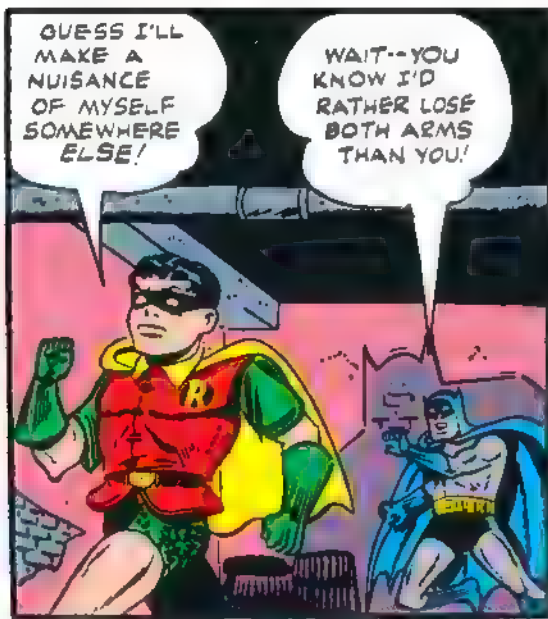
WHERE AM I?

IN OUR GUEST ROOM, NICE AND COZY WITH ALL YOUR PRETTY BRUSHES!









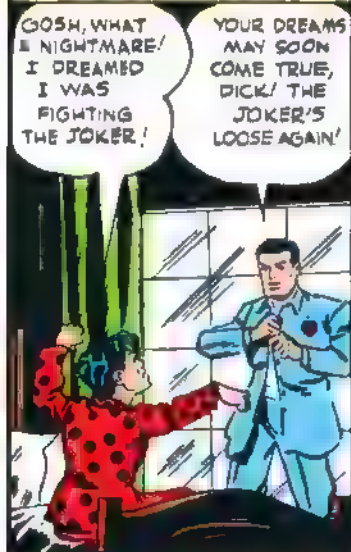
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

TIME AND AGAIN, ONE MAN HAS PLAYED THE SAME MOCKING PART ON THIS STAGE OF LIFE... THAT ARCH-ENEMY OF LAUGHTER, THAT MASTER CLOWN... THE **JOKER**! NOW, THE CRIME CLOWN STEPS OUT OF HIS ROLE, DONS THE MASK OF TRAGEDY, AND STALKS BEFORE FOOTLIGHTS TO MAKE PEOPLE CRY!... BUT THOSE TWIN SENTINELS OF THE LAW... **BATMAN** AND HIS YOUNG AIDE, **ROBIN**... EVER ALERT TO THE GRIM JESTER'S MADCAP PRANKS... TAKE THEIR CUE AND MAKE THEIR DYNAMIC ENTRANCE FROM THE WINGS IN TIME TO STEAL THE SHOW IN THIS....
"COMEDY OF TEARS!"



EARLY ONE MORNING, AT THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND DICK GRAYSON



GOSH, WHAT A NIGHTMARE! I DREAMED I WAS FIGHTING THE JOKER!

YOUR DREAMS MAY SOON COME TRUE, DICK! THE JOKER'S LOOSE AGAIN!

PROPHETIC WORDS! FOR AT THAT VERY MOMENT THE GRIM JESTER IS GLOATING OVER THE NEWEST PRANK BORN OF HIS TWISTED BRAIN!

FOOLS! THEY CALL ME THE JOKER! BUT SOON THEY SHALL SEE ANOTHER SIDE OF ME!



THE NEXT DAY, GOTHAM CITY IS STARTLED BY A SENSATIONAL BARRAGE OF BRAZEN MESSAGES! DOWNTOWN...



WHAT DOES HE MEAN?

MAYBE HE'S REFORMING!

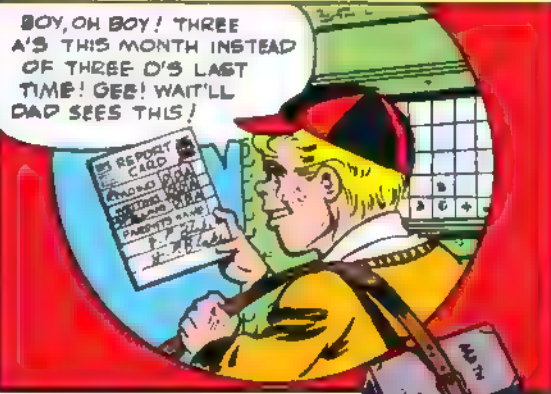
AND IN STILL ANOTHER PART OF THE CITY...



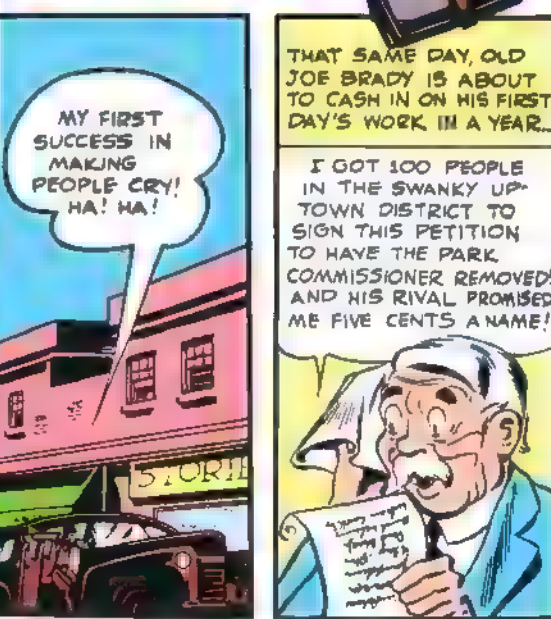
LOOKS LIKE MORE WORK FOR BATMAN AND ROBIN, IF YOU ASK ME!

YOU WERE RIGHT, BRUCE! BUT I WONDER WHAT HE'S UP TO?

NEXT DAY, LITTLE JOHNNY BLAKE LEAVES SCHOOL WITH A HAPPY GRIN...

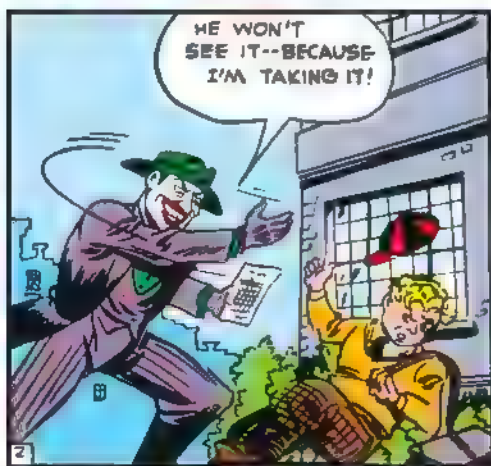


BOY, OH BOY! THREE A'S THIS MONTH INSTEAD OF THREE D'S LAST TIME! GEE! WAIT'LL DAD SEES THIS!



THAT SAME DAY, OLD JOE BRADY IS ABOUT TO CASH IN ON HIS FIRST DAY'S WORK IN A YEAR...

I GOT 100 PEOPLE IN THE SWANKY UP-TOWN DISTRICT TO SIGN THIS PETITION TO HAVE THE PARK COMMISSIONER REMOVED! AND HIS RIVAL PROMISED ME FIVE CENTS A NAME!

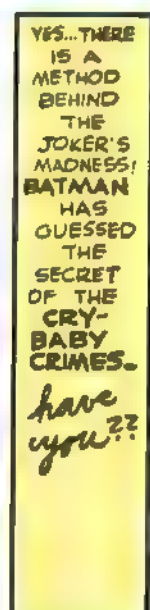
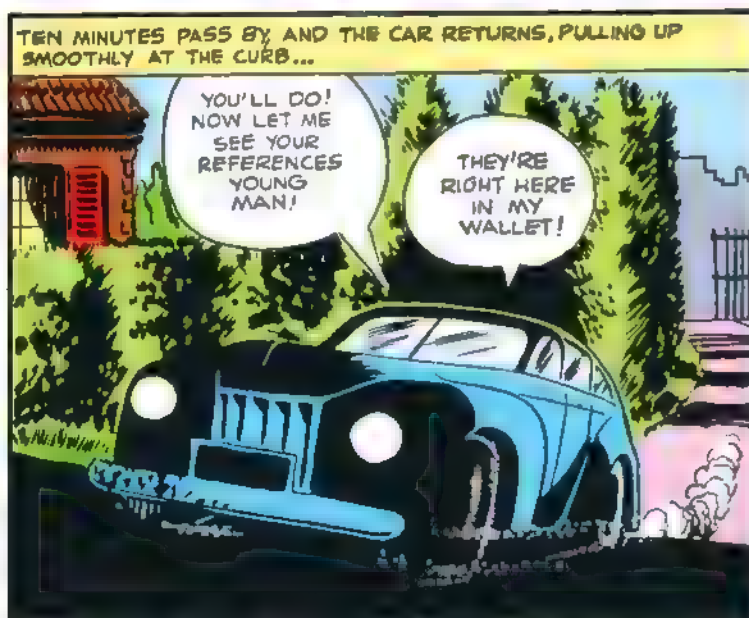


HE WON'T SEE IT--BECAUSE I'M TAKING IT!



BOO-HOO! MY DAD'LL GIVE ME A SPANKING! HE'LL THINK I'M AFRAID TO SHOW MY REPORT CARD TO HIM!

MY FIRST SUCCESS IN MAKING PEOPLE CRY! HA! HA!



AT THE CRIME CLOWN'S HIDEOUT, BRAVNY HENCHMEN ARE PUZZLED, TOO...



THIS PETITION HAS THE SIGNATURES OF WEALTHY, IMPORTANT MEN!... AND THE CHAUFFEUR'S REFERENCES ARE SIGNED BY OUR BEST CITIZENS! NOW DO YOU SEE?



I GET IT! WE'RE GOING TO FORGE CHECKS AND CASH IN, EH?

NO, NOTHING AS RISKY AS THAT! I HAVE OTHER PLANS! LISTEN...



LATER, AT COLOSSAL STUDIOS, WHERE A SELECTED GALA CROWD IS CELEBRATING THE FILMING OF THE FINAL SCENES OF A GREAT EPIC....



IT WORKED, JOKER! THAT FORGED PASS GOT US IN! GOOD THING THEY DIDN'T NOTICE THE TOMMY GUNS UNDER OUR COATS!

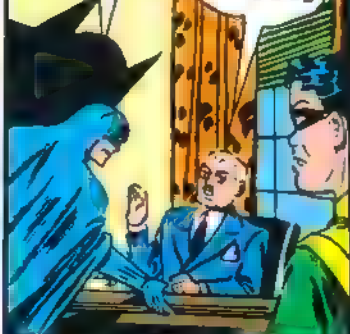
LET'S GET DOWN TO BUSINESS! FIRST, RAID THE DRESSING ROOMS OF THE STARS! THEN MEET ME ON THE LOT!



MEANWHILE, BACK AT POLICE HEADQUARTERS....

THE JOKER PULLED THOSE JOBS TO OBTAIN SIGNATURES, I TELL YOU!

WHAT CAN WE DO...



A SUDDEN INTERRUPTION...

CHIEF, THE JOKER'S HOLDING UP THE COLOSSAL STUDIO'S CROWD! A GUARD MANAGED TO PHONE US!

SEE HOW IT FITS IN? LITTLE JOHNNY BLAKE'S FATHER IS VICE-PRESIDENT OF COLOSSAL! THEY FORGED HIS SIGNATURE!

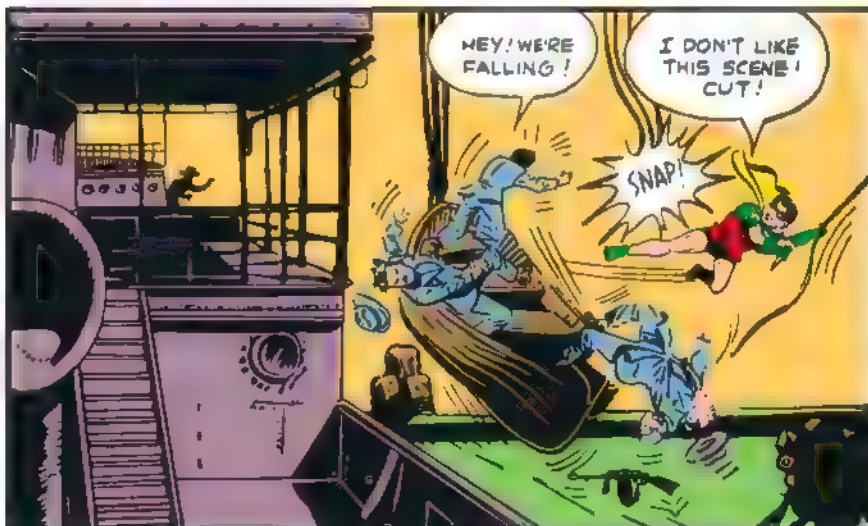
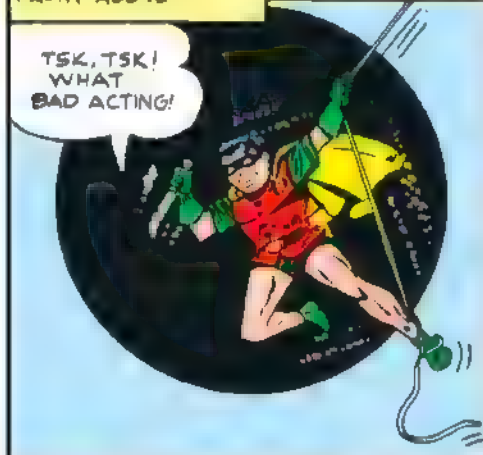
WHAT ARE WE WAITING FOR?



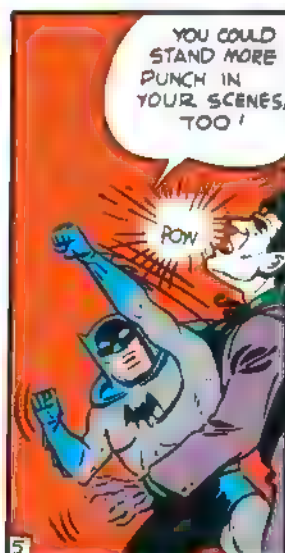
ON A LAVISH MOVIE SET, THE KING OF KNAVES IS DIRECTING HIS OWN CUNNING SCENE!

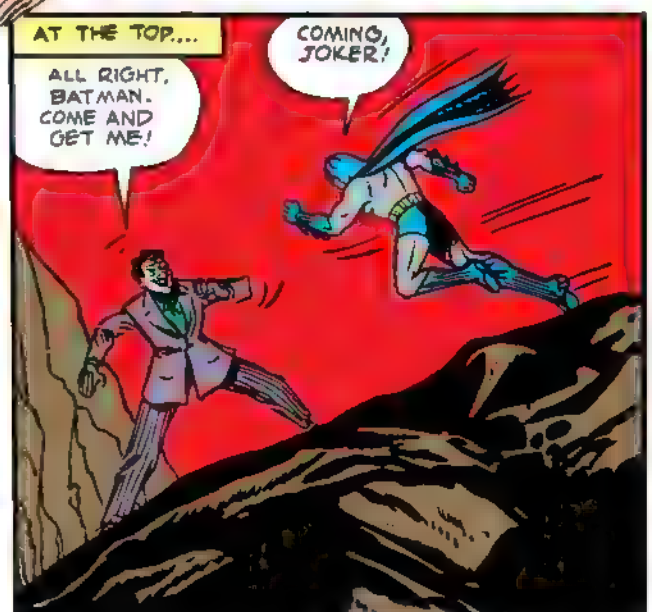
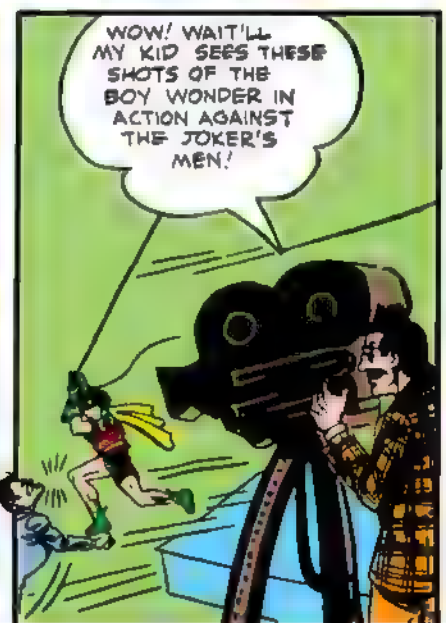
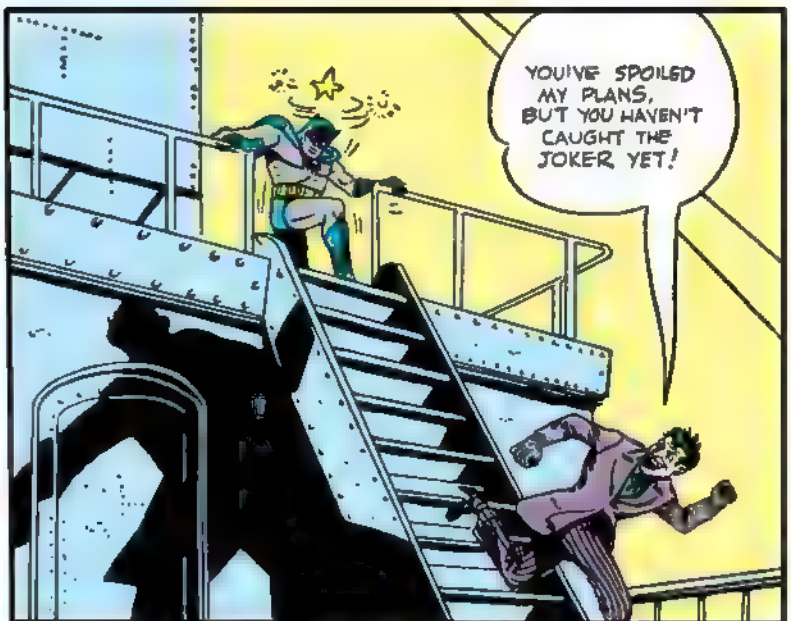


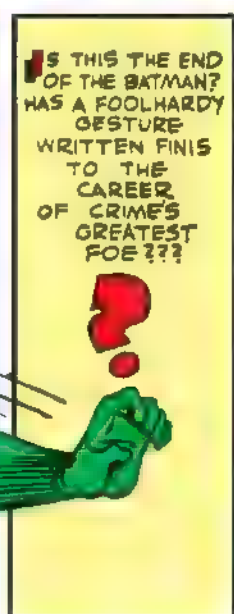
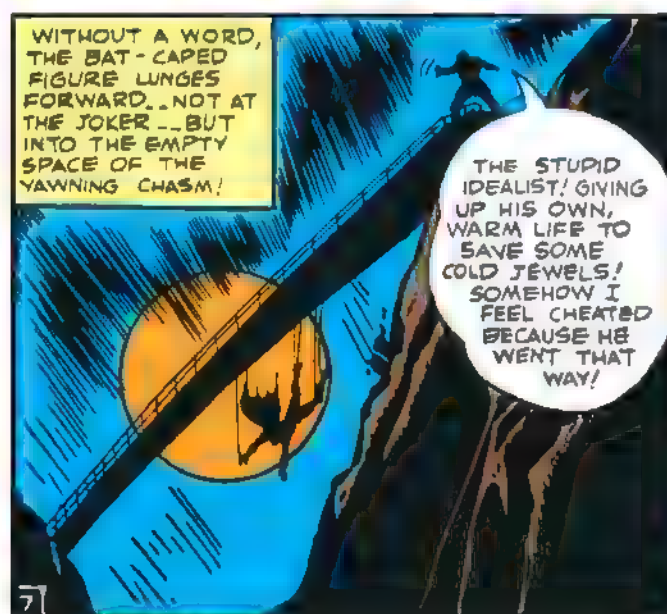
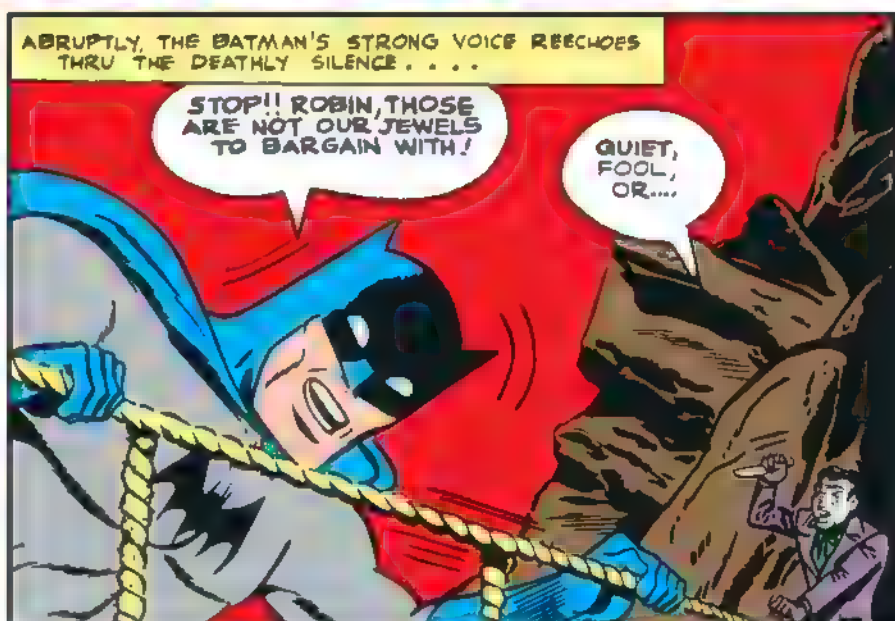
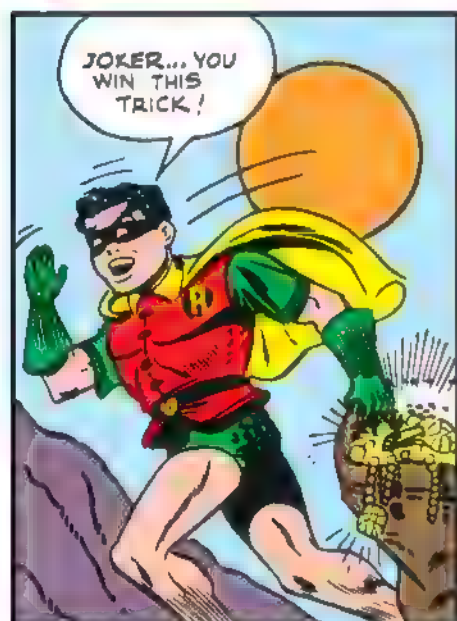
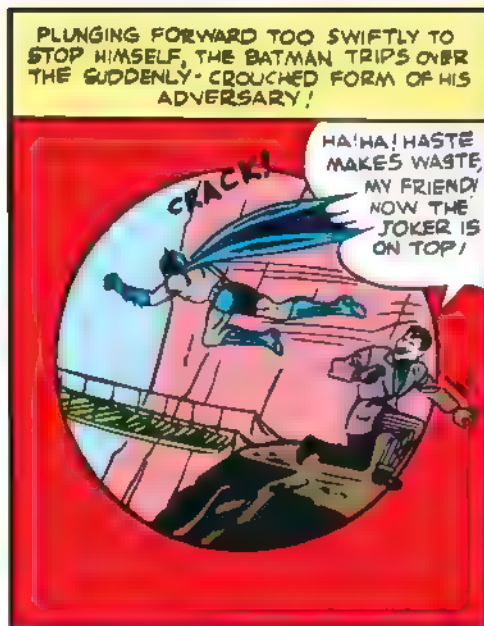
ABRUPTLY, LIKE A HUMAN PENDULUM, A SMALL CLOAKED FIGURE FLASHES DOWN FROM ABOVE!

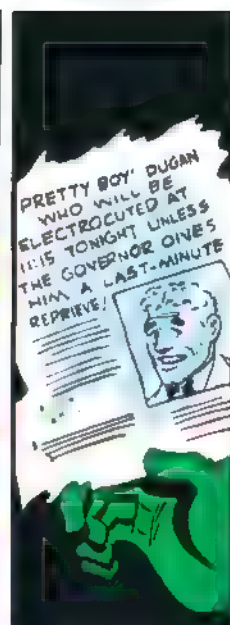
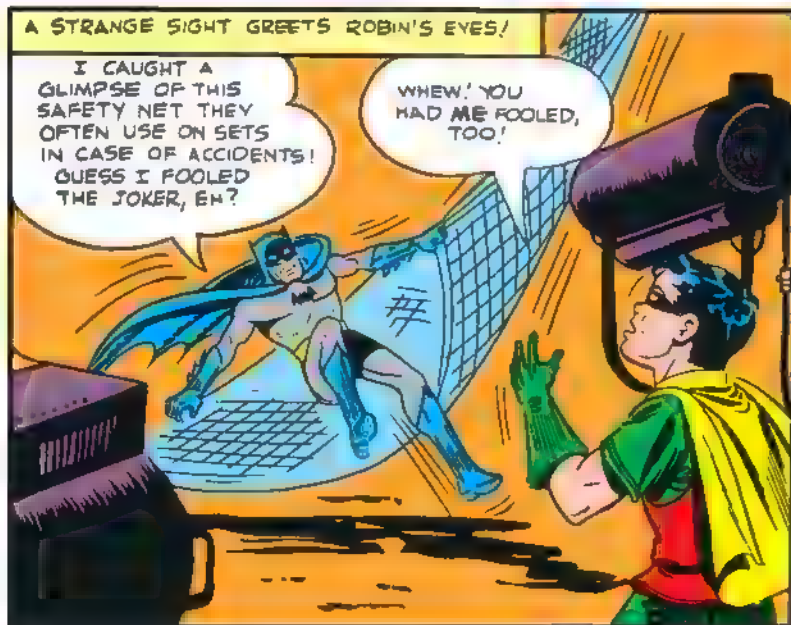


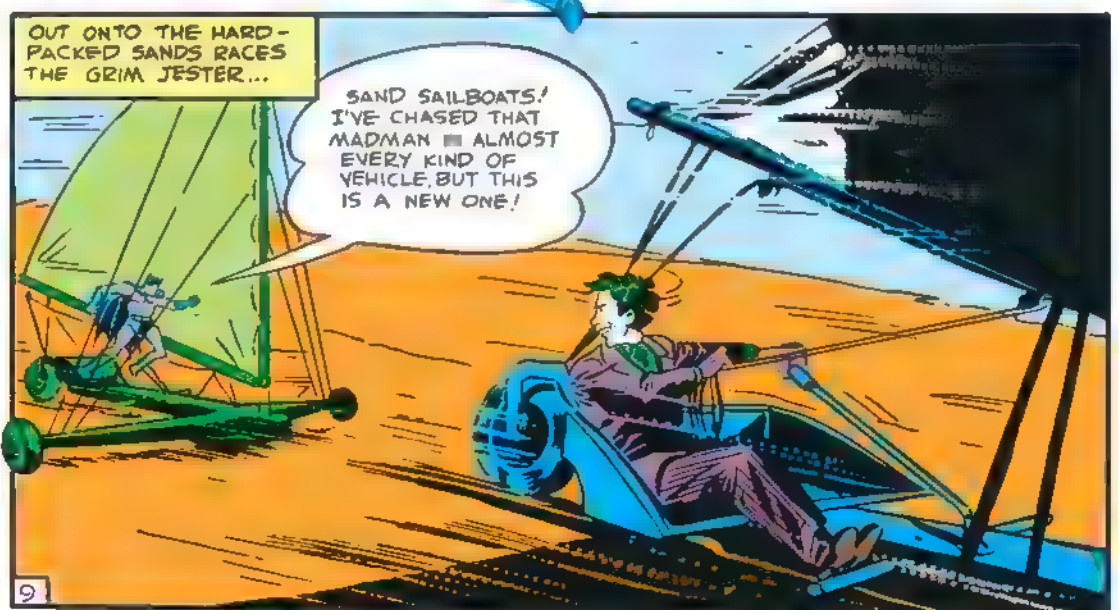
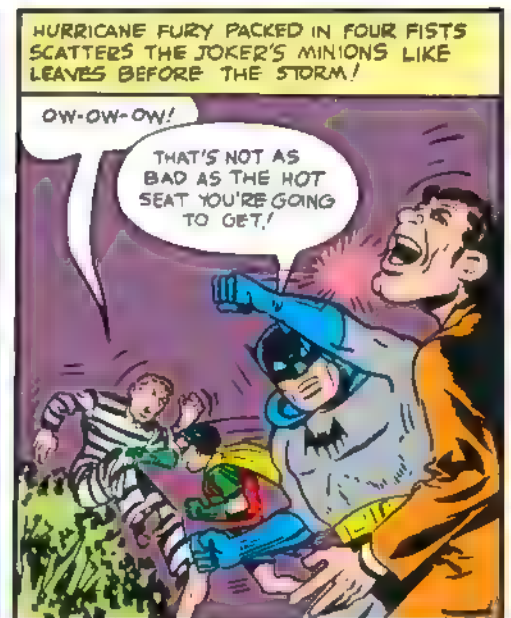
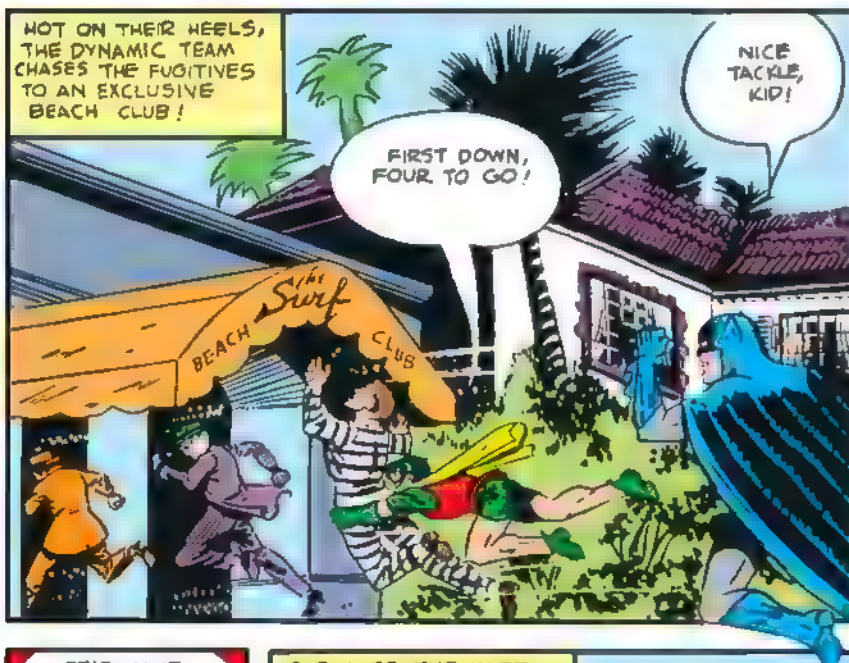
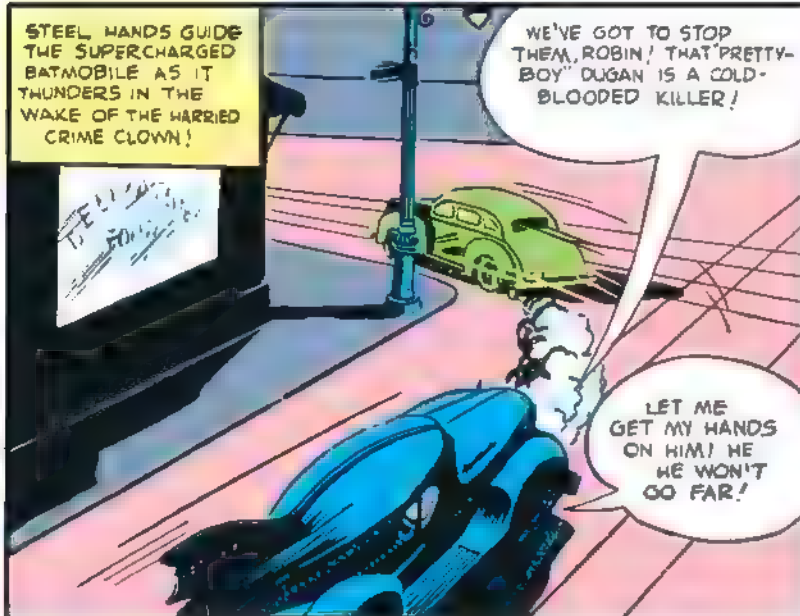
BUT THE HARLEQUIN OF HATE RECKONS WITHOUT HIS ARCH-NEMESIS!

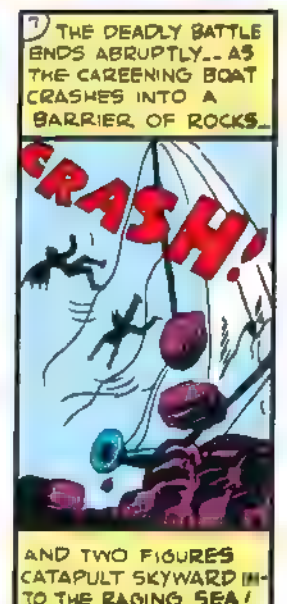
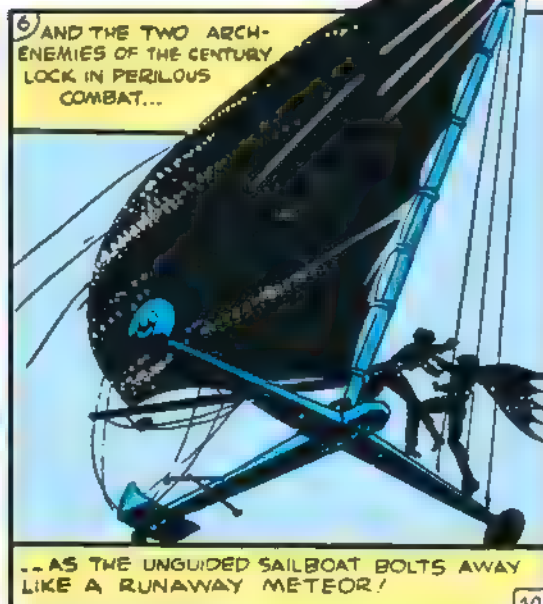
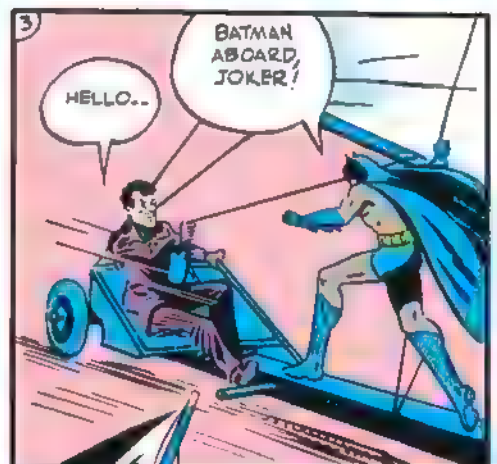
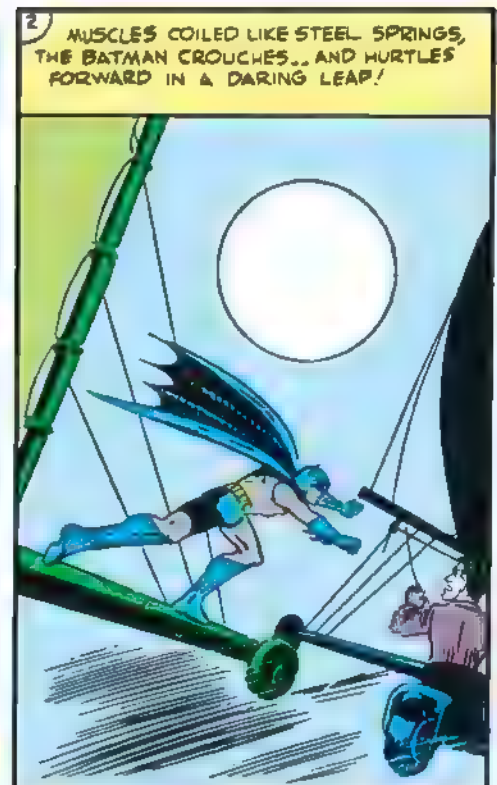












SECONDS TICK BY, AND THEN A HEAD EMERGES FROM THE CHOPPY, WHITE-CAPPED WATERS... THE BATMAN'S!



WHEW! THAT WAS A CLOSE SHAVE! LOOKS LIKE THE JOKER DIDN'T COME UP FOR AIR!

HAS THE MASTER OF MOCKERY FINALLY PLUNGED TO HIS DOOM ON THE JAGGED ROCKS BENEATH THE WAVES? ONLY TIME CAN TELL!



THE NEXT WEEK, THOUGH, THE FATE OF THE JOKER IS EXPLOSIVELY REVEALED!



THE JOKER GOT AWAY! HE JUST PULLED SOME NEW JOBS, GETTING INTO RICH HOMES BY FORGING SERVANTS' REFERENCES!

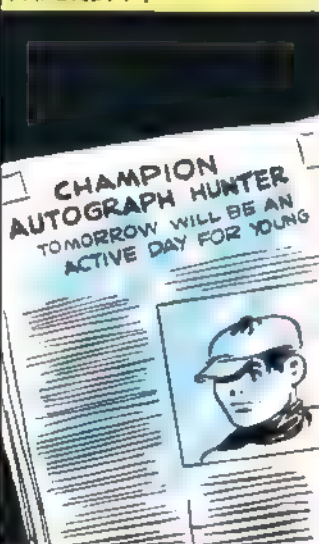
I WAS APRAID OF THAT! CAN'T EVEN RELAX!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GO AFTER HIM NOW? WE DON'T KNOW WHAT HE'S GOING TO DO NEXT IN THIS COMEDY OF TEARS!

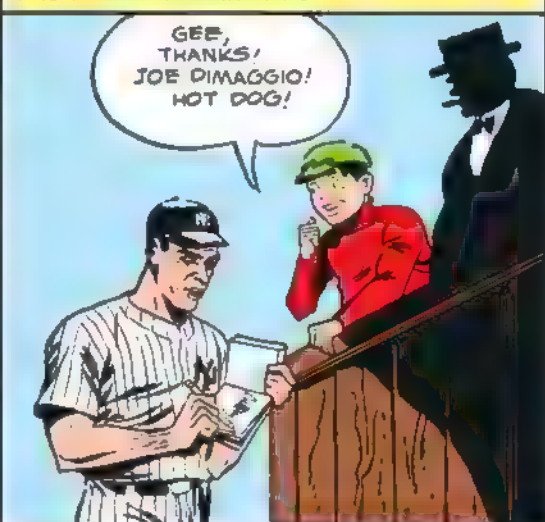
THEN WE'LL HAVE TO OFFER HIM SOME BAIT! I HAVE AN IDEA!



THAT EVENING, THE NEWS-PAPERS...



AND THE FOLLOWING DAY, A DISGUISED ROBIN ROVES TOWN PURSUING HIS NEW HOBBY, AUTOGRAPH-HUNTING...



GEE, THANKS! JOE DIMAGGIO! HOT DOG!

AT THE DOOR OF A FAMOUS RESTAURANT...



JERRY SIEGEL, THE CREATOR OF SUPERMAN, I ALWAYS WANTED HIS AUTOGRAPH!

AND AT A DEPARTMENT STORE BOOK COUNTER...



WILL YOU SIGN MY AUTOGRAPH BOOK, MR. BIGBY, PLEASE?

CERTAINLY, SON!

OUTSIDE, AMID THE JOSTLING CROWDS, A HAND SNAKES OUT AND...

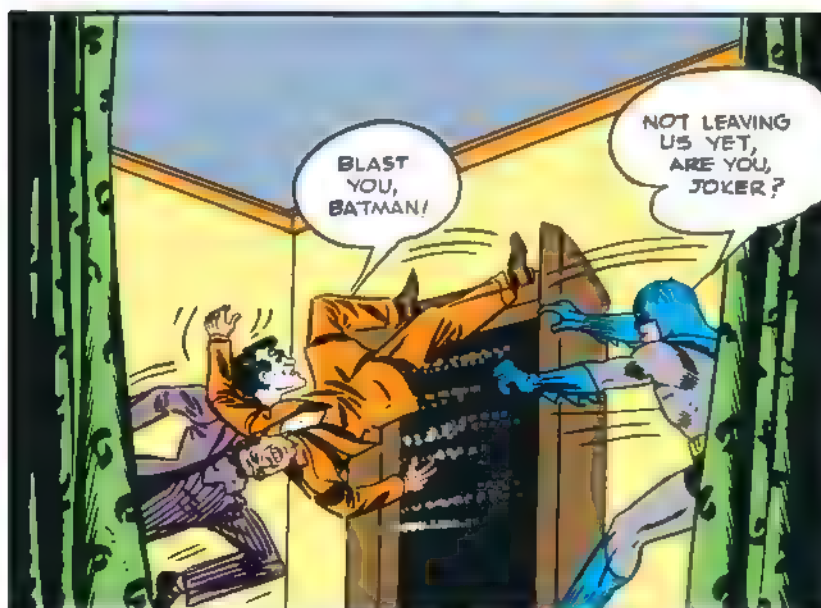
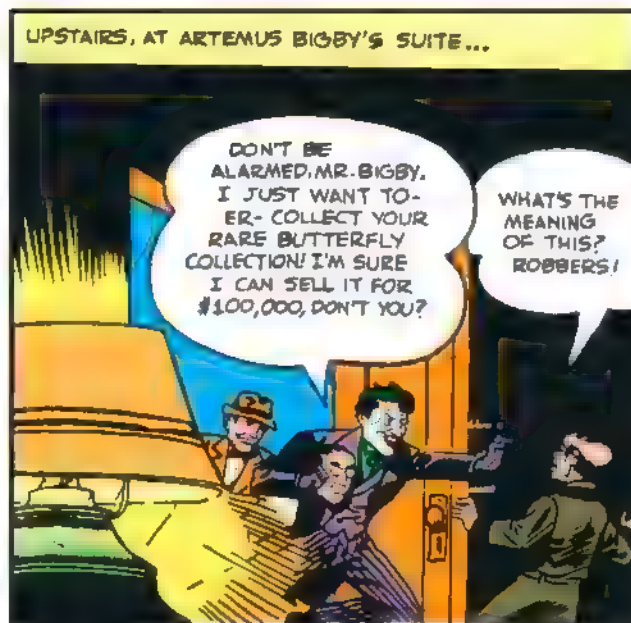


I'LL TAKE THAT!

HEY-- WHATCHA DOING?

IT WORKED! THE FISH BIT, ALL RIGHT! THERE'S ONLY ONE SIGNATURE IN THAT BOOK THE JOKER CAN REALLY USE-- THE OWNERS OF THE OTHERS ARE ALL GOING OUT OF TOWN!





HIS CRONIES SHARED AND CHLOROFORMED BY THE MEER BUTTERFLY COLLECTOR, THE CORNERED CLOWN FIGHTS ON ALONE!



TOO LATE!

STOP, OR I'LL PLUNGE THESE SCISSORS INTO ROBIN'S HEAD!



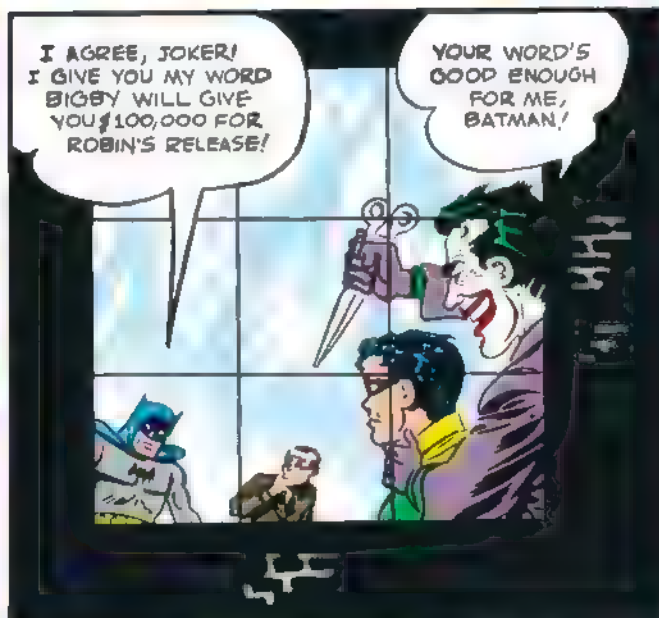
ONCE AGAIN THE JOKER BARGAINS... THIS TIME, ROBIN'S FATE IN THE BALANCE!

MY MEN ARE CAPTURED, MY PLANS BROKEN UP, BUT I'M GOING TO GET SOMETHING OUT OF THIS! I WANT MY FREEDOM AND \$100,000 FROM BIGBY, OR ELSE...



I AGREE, JOKER! I GIVE YOU MY WORD BIGBY WILL GIVE YOU \$100,000 FOR ROBIN'S RELEASE!

YOUR WORD'S GOOD ENOUGH FOR ME, BATMAN!



WHY SHOULD I GIVE HIM \$100,000, EVEN IF YOU PROMISED IT?

I CAN'T BREAK MY WORD! PAY HIM! LISTEN...



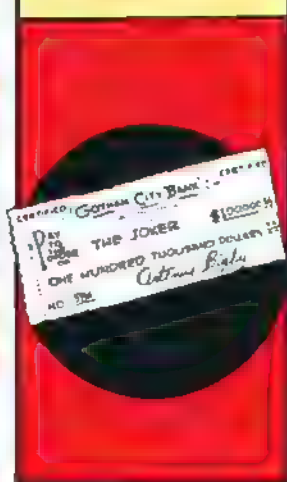
SOON THE BARGAIN IS SEALED...

HERE'S YOUR MONEY, JOKER... INSIDE THIS ENVELOPE!

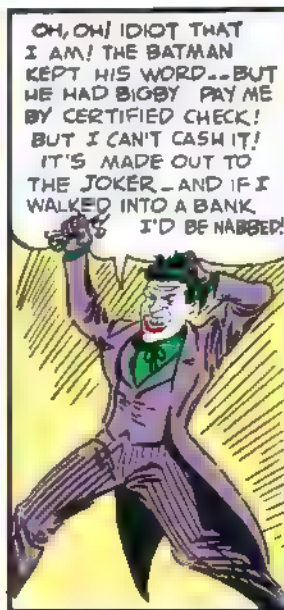
THANKS. I KNEW YOU'D KEEP YOUR WORD!



LATER, IN A NEW HIDE-OUT, THE BRAZEN BUFFOON OF CRIME OPENS THE ENVELOPE AND SEES...



OH, OH! IDIOT THAT I AM! THE BATMAN KEPT HIS WORD... BUT HE HAD BIGBY PAY ME BY CERTIFIED CHECK! BUT I CAN'T CASH IT! IT'S MADE OUT TO THE JOKER... AND IF I WALKED INTO A BANK, I'D BE NABBED!



THE BATMAN AND ROBIN HAVE THE LAST LAUGH!

I'D LIKE TO SEE THE JOKER'S FACE WHEN HE REALIZES THE TRUTH!

POETIC JUSTICE, ROBIN! HE WANTED TO MAKE OTHERS CRY... IT'S HIS TURN NOW!



THE END - 13

BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

REG. U.S. PAT. OFF.



WHAT'S A STONE?
JUST A BIT OF COLD ROCK,
EMOTIONLESS? DEAD, UNEXCITING?
THAT'S WHAT YOU THINK!
WE'LL TELL YOU OF A STONE... OF
MANY STORIES!... OF STONES THAT
EXPRESSED HATE, REVENGE, EVIL! DO
THEY SOUND EMOTIONLESS?
AND HERE ALSO ARE STONES THAT
MEANT NEW LIFE NARROW ESCAPES
FROM IMPENDING DOOM! CERTAINLY
THESE ARE NOT DEAD STONES!
AND AGAIN IN THIS TALE ARE
STONES THAT BROUGHT ON DANGER,
PERILOUS ACTION, A TENSE MANHUNT!
DOES THAT SEEM UNEXCITING TO YOU?
THEN READ ON, LEARN HOW FATE
CAST THE FIRST STONE
AND BROUGHT A MAN'S LIFE
THE STORY OF THE
SEVENTEEN
STONES!!

THE GOTHAM CITY PRISON YARD....

ROCKY GRIMES'S
TWENTY-YEAR
STRETCH IS UP
TOMORROW!

YEAH... THE GUY IS AS
CRACKED AS THEM
STONES HE HAMMERS!
IMAGINE HIM PUTTIN'
ON AN INNOCENCE ACT
ALL THE TIME!



BOB
KANE

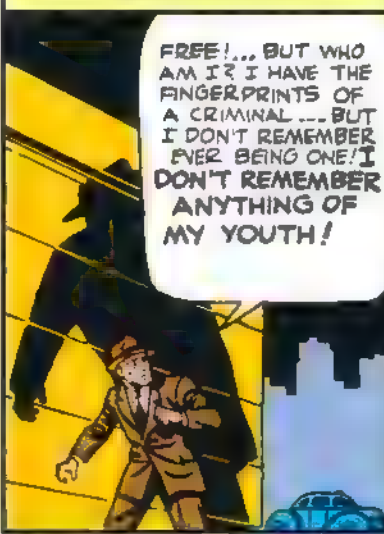
THE NEXT DAY ROCKY GETS HIS RELEASE!

WARDEN, YOU STILL DON'T BELIEVE MY STORY THAT I'M NOT ROCKY GRIMES, THE GANGSTER!

I'VE HEARD YOU SAY THAT FOR TWENTY YEARS NOW! I KNOW YOU'RE ROCKY! FINGERPRINTS DON'T LIE! YOU'VE SERVED YOUR TIME! FORGET THE YARN!

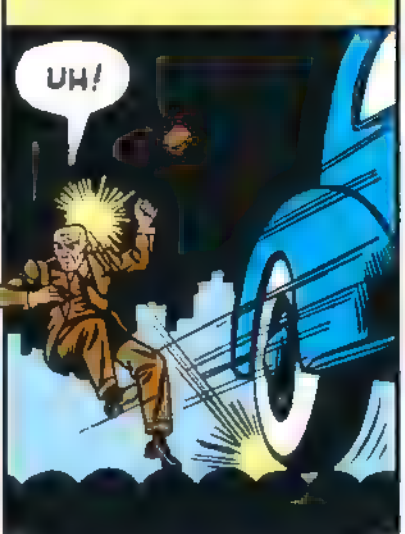


SO A BEWILDERED MAN WALKS FROM BEHIND STONE PRISON WALLS TO THE STONE PAVEMENTS OF GOTHAM CITY!



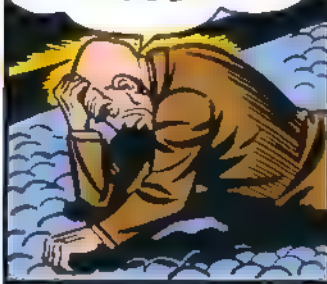
FREE!... BUT WHO AM I? I HAVE THE FINGERPRINTS OF A CRIMINAL... BUT I DON'T REMEMBER EVER BEING ONE! I DON'T REMEMBER ANYTHING OF MY YOUTH!

ABRUPTLY, A CAR TIRE PASSES OVER THE END OF A LOOSE COBBLESTONE... AND FLIPS IT STRAIGHT AT THE MAN'S TEMPLE!



LATER... WHEN THE BLACK CURTAIN OF UNCONSCIOUSNESS LIFTS....

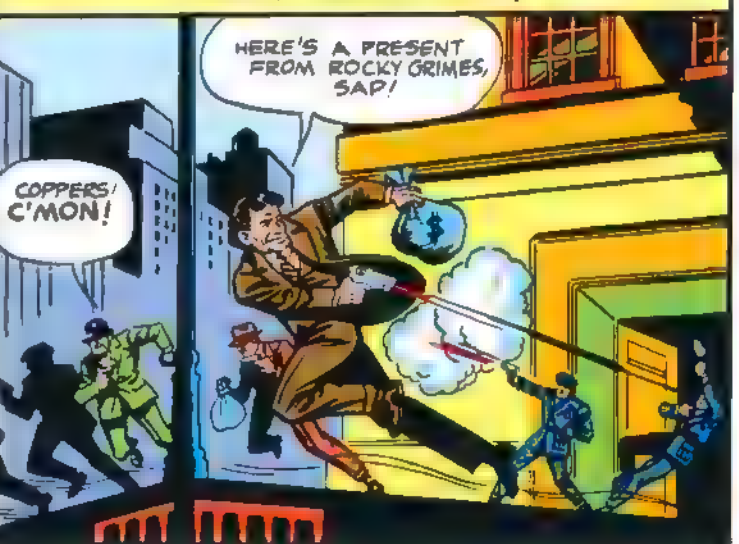
OH... MY HEAD!... LEFTY SLADE... HE SLOGGED ME... I... WHAT HAPPENED TO MY HAIR?... AN' MY FACE WRINKLED ---OLD!



MY HEAD...SO DIZZY...BUT I REMEMBER NOW... REMEMBER! ME AND MY MOB... WE WERE HOLDING UP A BANK... I SHOT A GUARD....



IN HIS MIND'S EYE, THE MAN GOES BACK... BACK TO A HOLDUP OF TWENTY YEARS AGO!!



HERE'S A PRESENT FROM ROCKY GRIMES, SAP!

COPPERS! C'MON!

LATER...IN THE HIDEOUT---

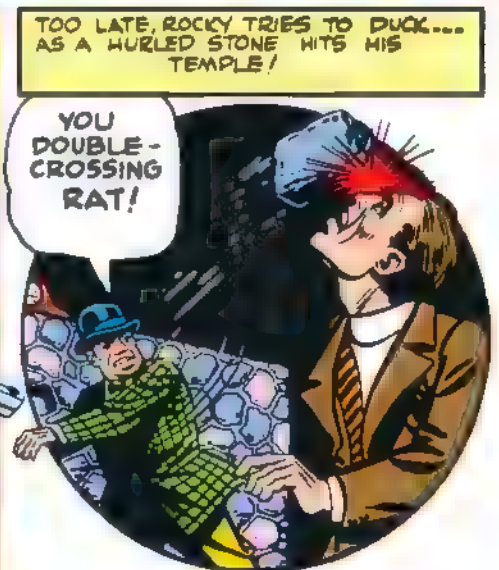
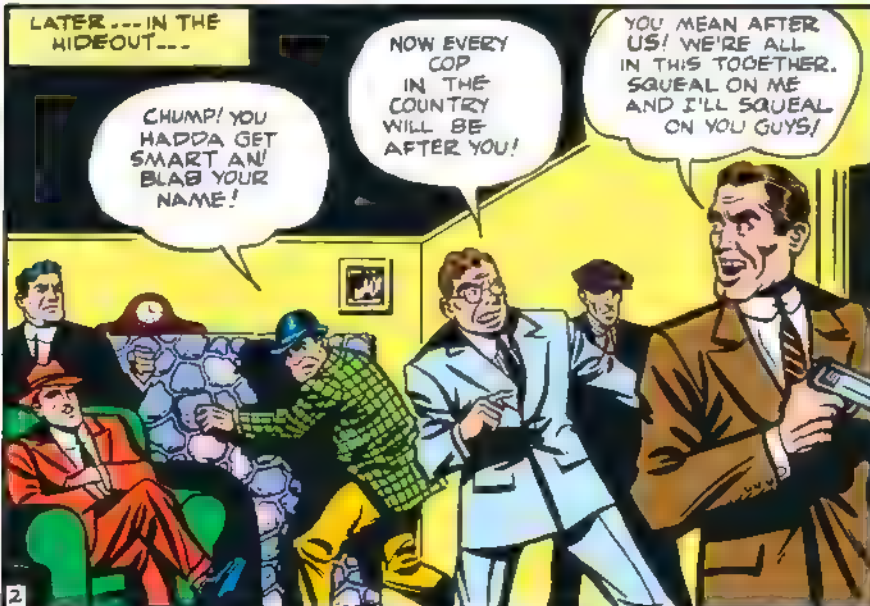
CHUMPA! YOU HADDA GET SMART AN' BLAB YOUR NAME!

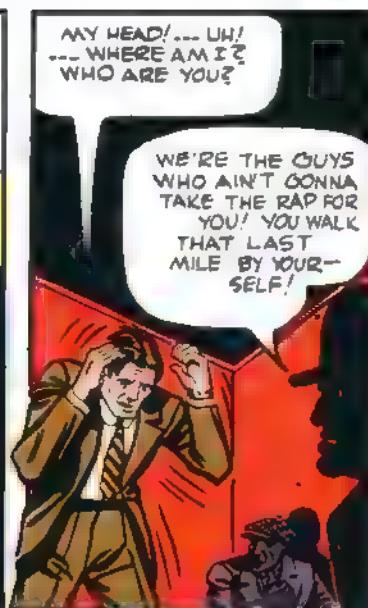
NOW EVERY COP IN THE COUNTRY WILL BE AFTER YOU!

YOU MEAN AFTER US! WE'RE ALL IN THIS TOGETHER. SQUEAL ON ME AND I'LL SQUEAL ON YOU GUYS!

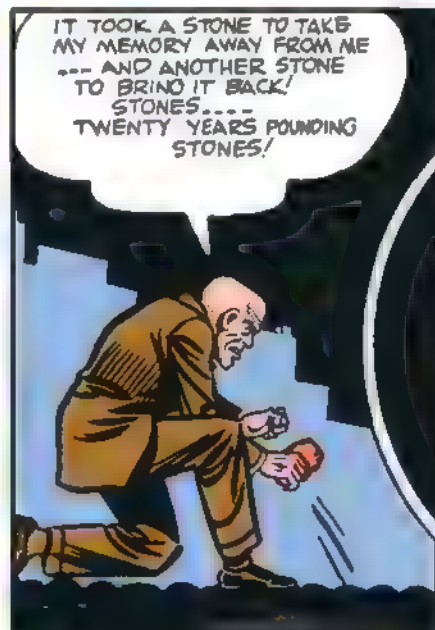
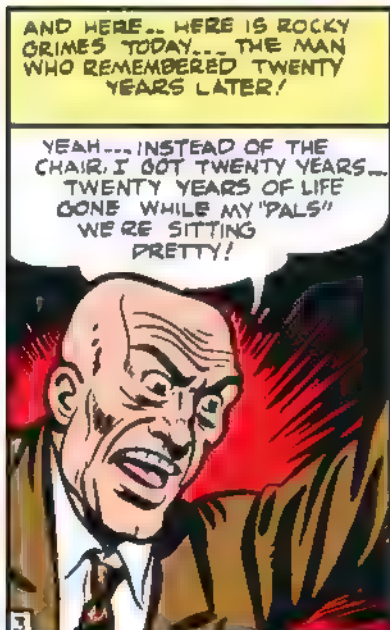
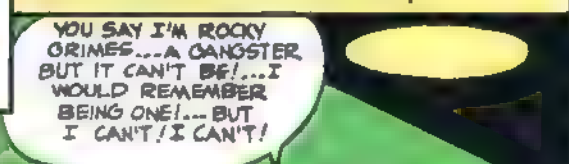
TOO LATE, ROCKY TRIES TO DUCK... AS A HURLED STONE HITS HIS TEMPLE!

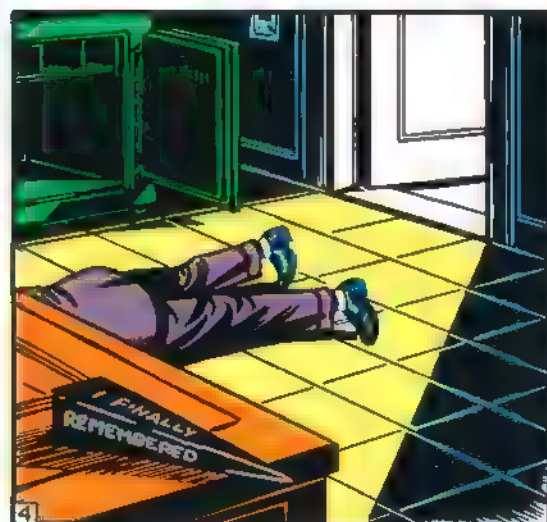
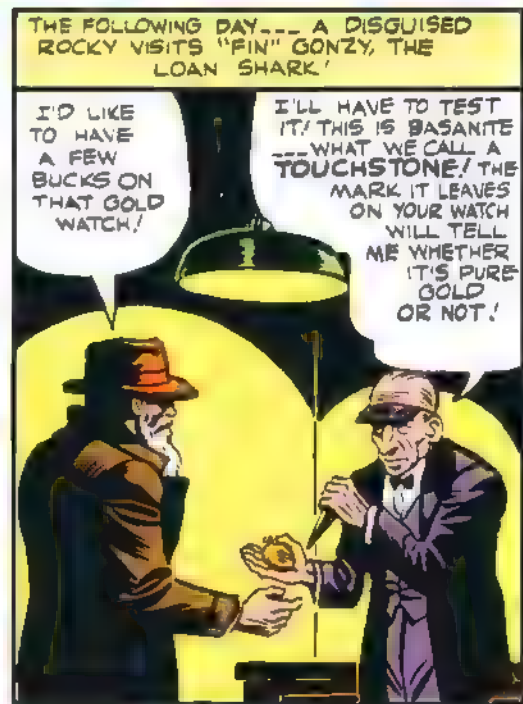
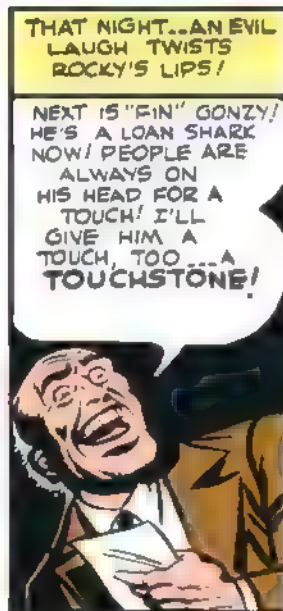
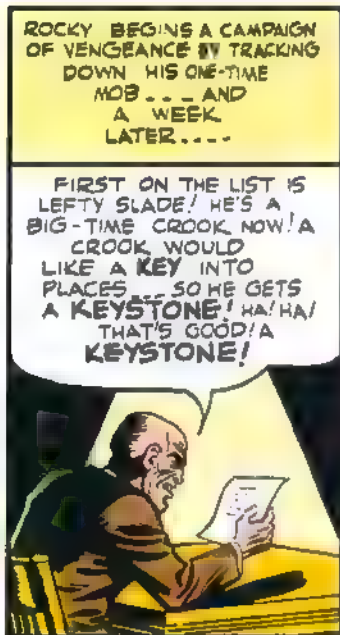
YOU DOUBLE-CROSSING RAT!

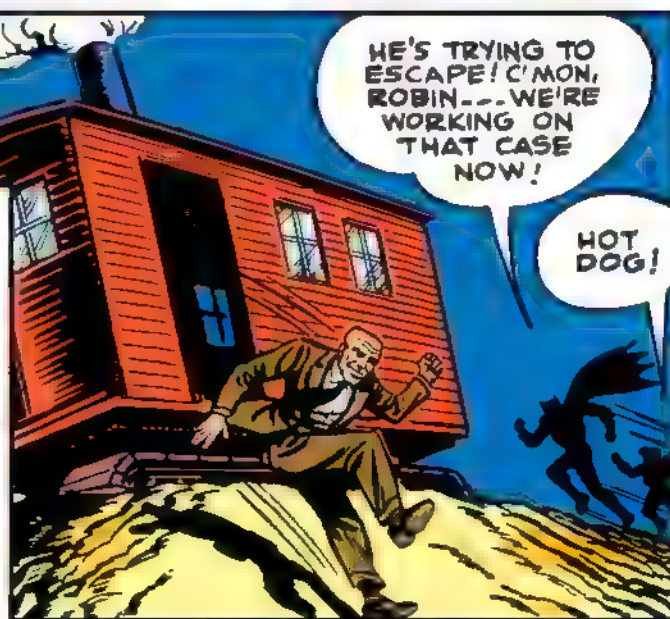
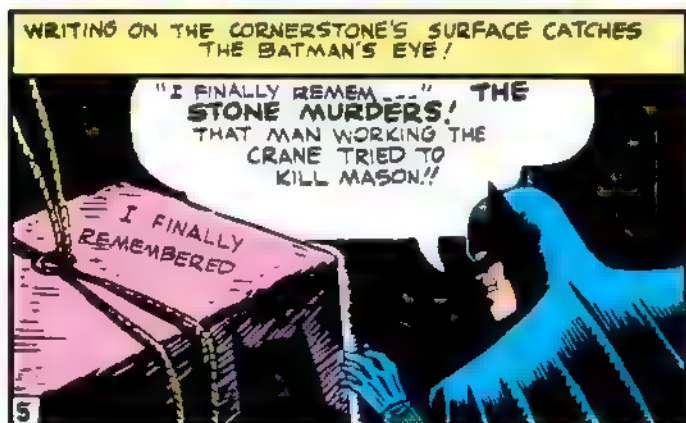
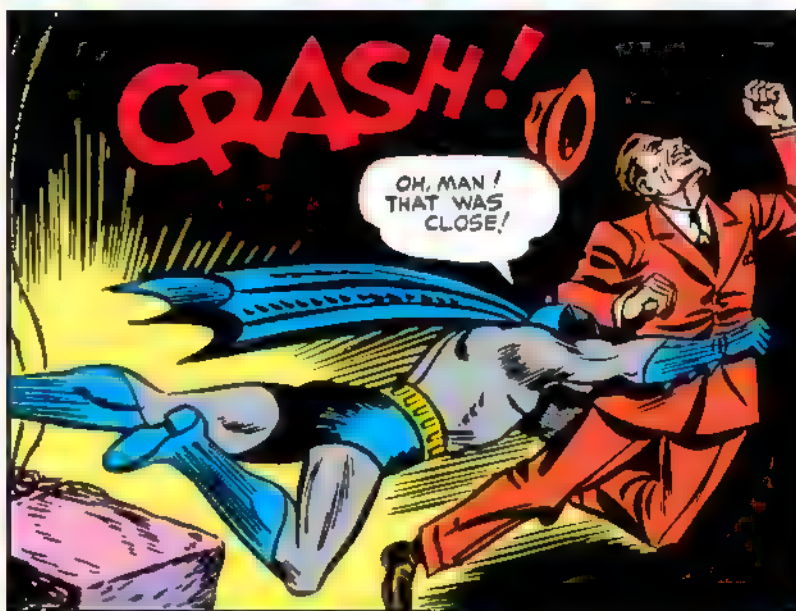
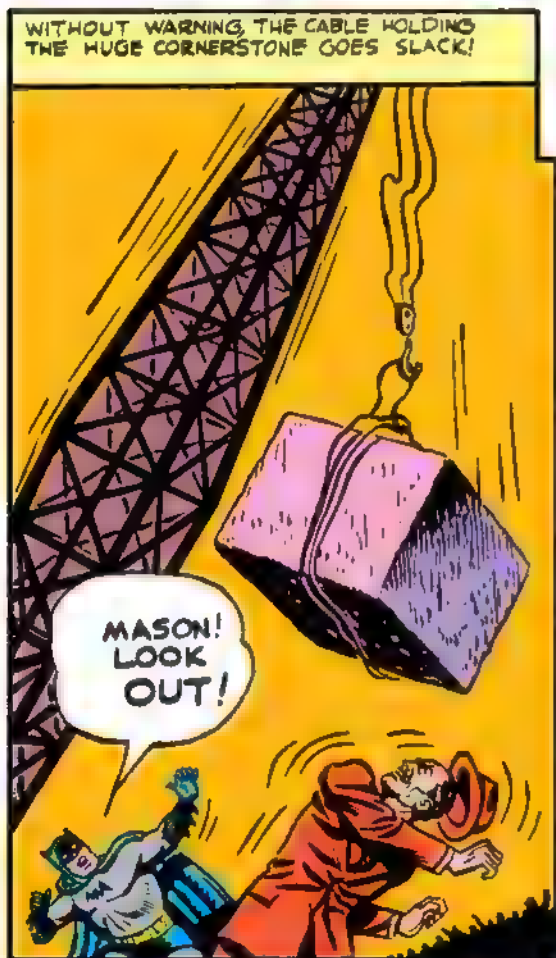
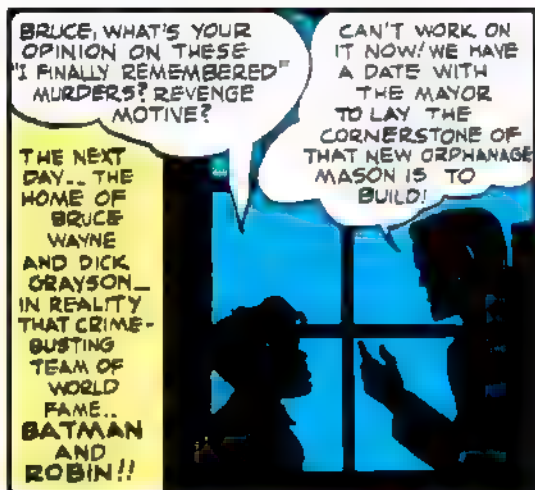


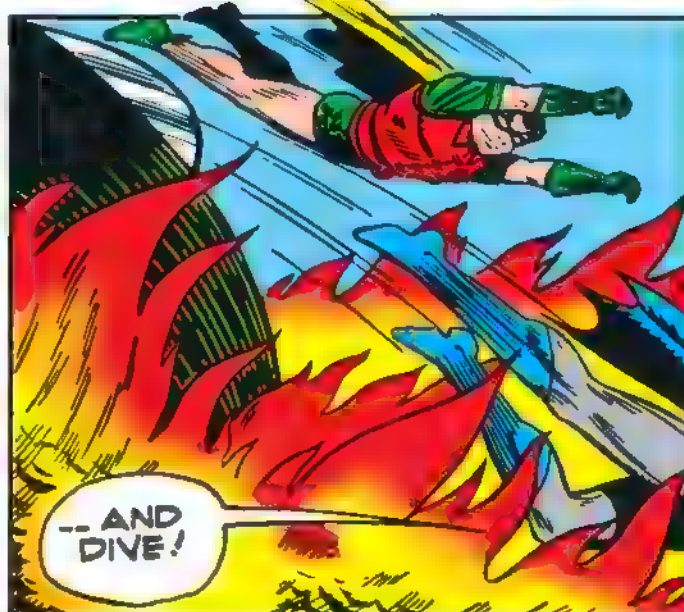
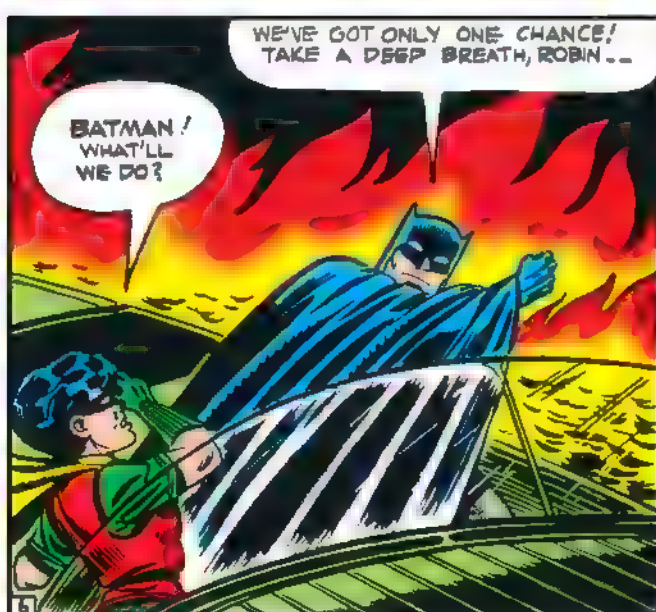
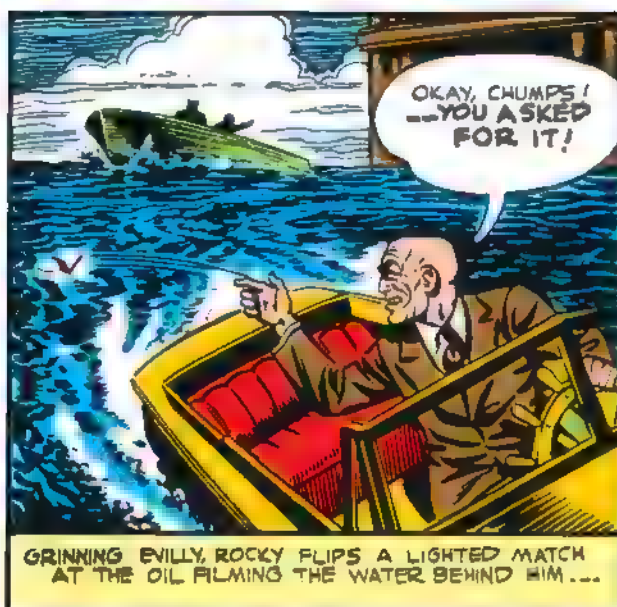
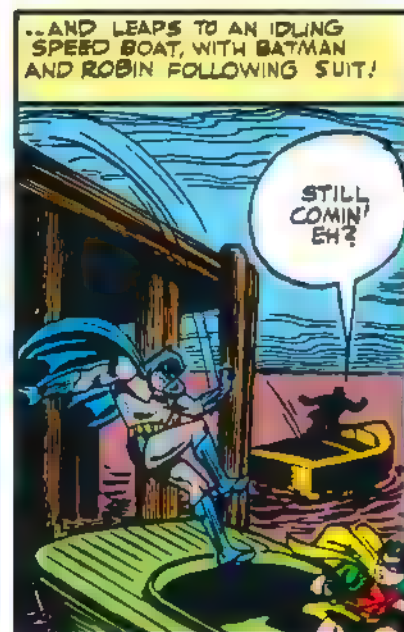


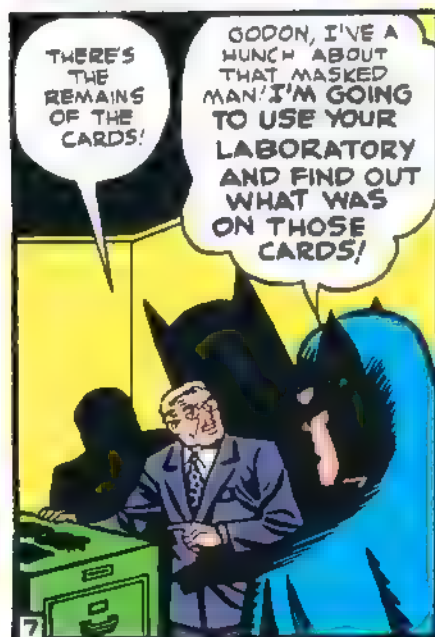
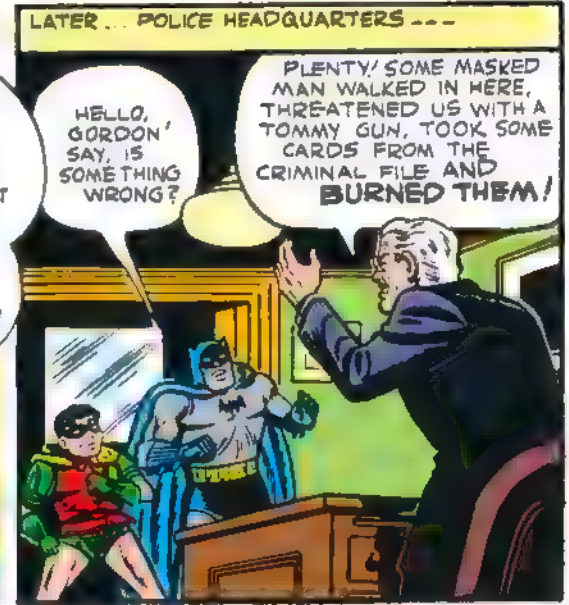
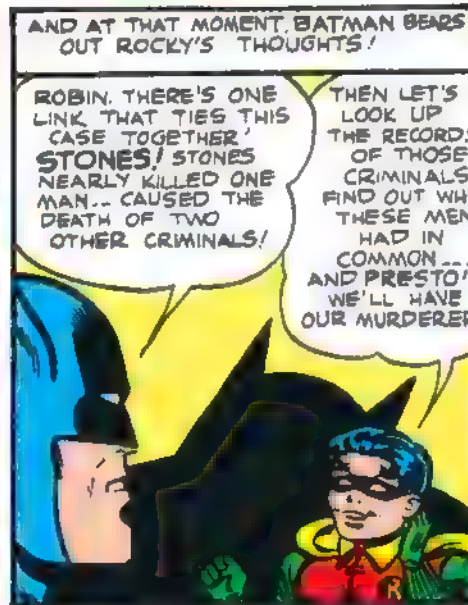
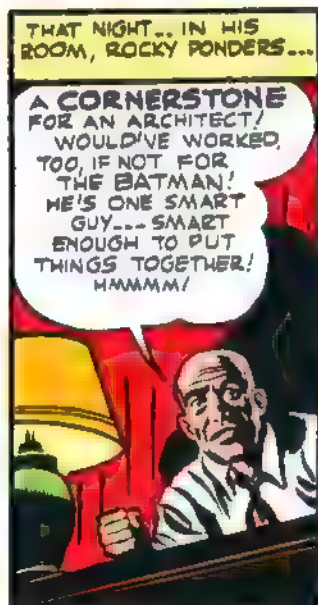
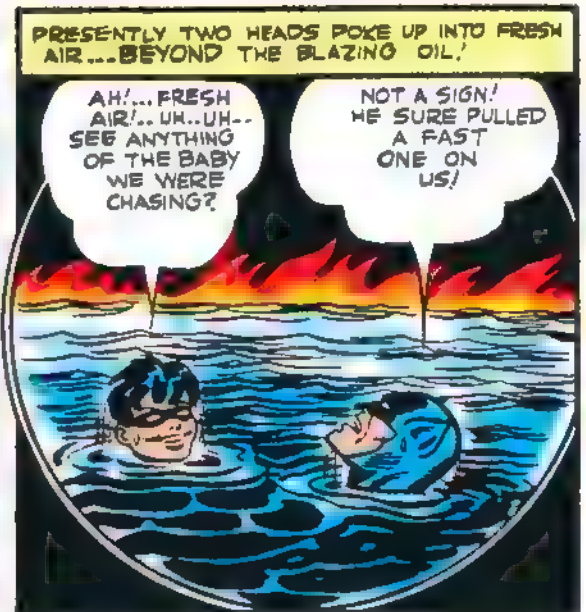
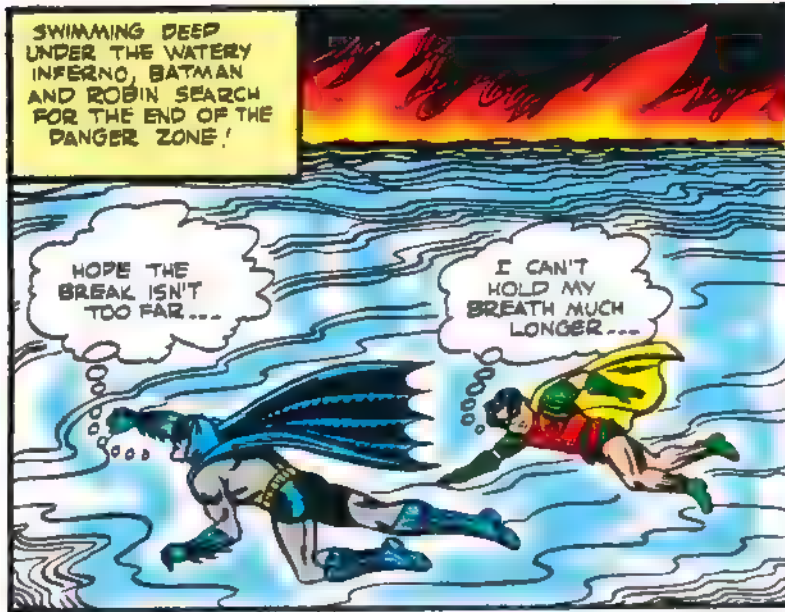
AND SO THIS MAN WITH A PERPLEXED, VAGUE MIND IS BROUGHT TO THE LAW!

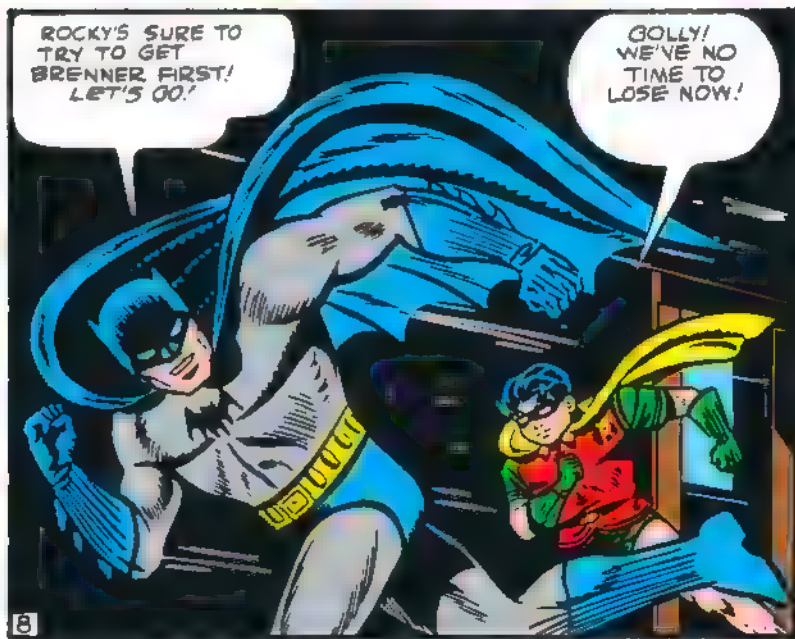
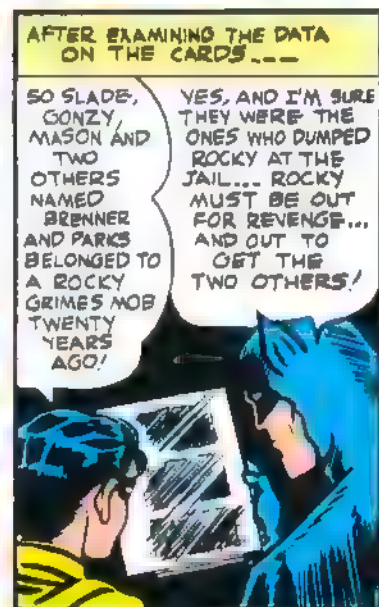
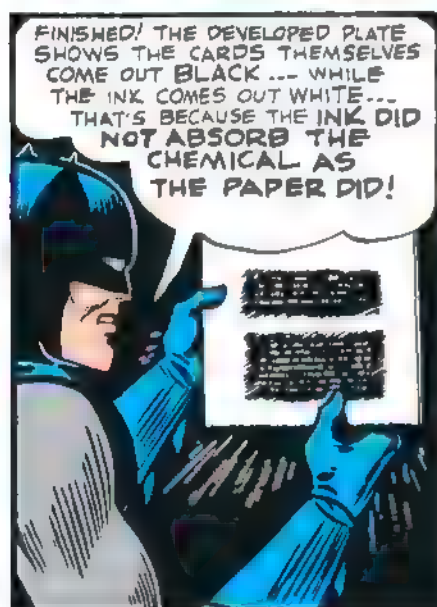
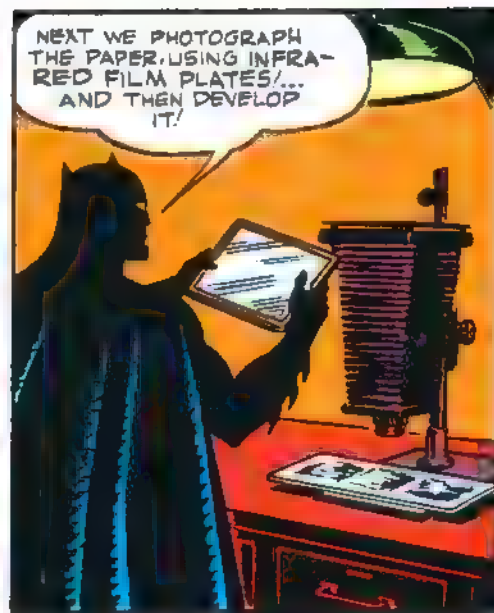












"NO TIME TO LOSE" IS CORRECT...FOR ONLY AN HOUR BEFORE.

HERE'S YOUR HELIOTROPE GEM, SIR... JUST AS YOU ORDERED IT YESTERDAY! BUT I'M CURIOUS TO KNOW WHY YOU HAD ME CUT THE JEWEL INTO THE SHAPE OF A BULLET!

OH, IT'S JUST A GAG I'M PLAYING ON A FRIEND!

LATER, AT HIS HOME, ROCKY SCRATCHES THE SEMI-PRECIOUS DIAMOND WITH AN ENGRAVER'S TOOL---

HA! HA! MUSTN'T FORGET TO WRITE "I FINALLY REMEMBERED ON IT!"

SO BRENNER'S A DIAMOND-CUTTER, EN-- A DIAMOND IS A STONE... I'LL GET HIM WITH A STONE THAT WILL SPILL HIS BLOOD.. THIS HELIOTROPE--- OR, AS IT IS COMMONLY CALLED-- THE BLOODSTONE!

THE HOUSE OF JEWELS EXHIBIT... LYNX-EYED GUARDS WATCH THE AWE-STROCKED SPECTATORS VIEWING THE GREATEST COLLECTION OF GEMS TO BE GATHERED UNDER ONE ROOF!

BUT THE GREAT EVENT COMES WHEN THE FABULOUS ONKERS DIAMOND, WEIGHING 700 CARATS, IS ABOUT TO BE CLEAVED! A HUSH BLANKETS THE AUDIENCE!

...AND IF THE DIAMOND IS NOT CLEANLY SPLIT, IT MAY LOSE MOST OF ITS ORIGINAL VALUE--- SO LET'S HAVE ABSOLUTE SILENCE, PLEASE! THIS IS A TICKLISH JOB!

OOOOH! NOW LOVELY! A RAINBOW OF JEWELS!

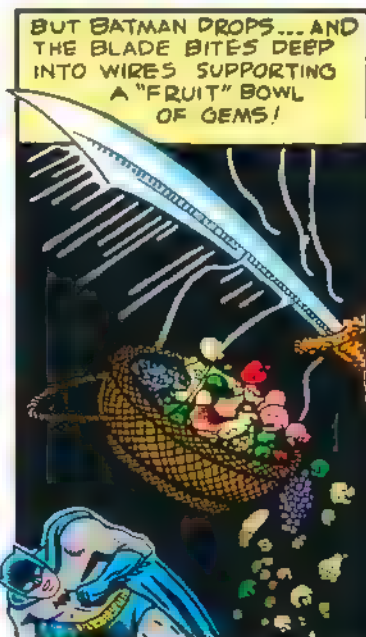
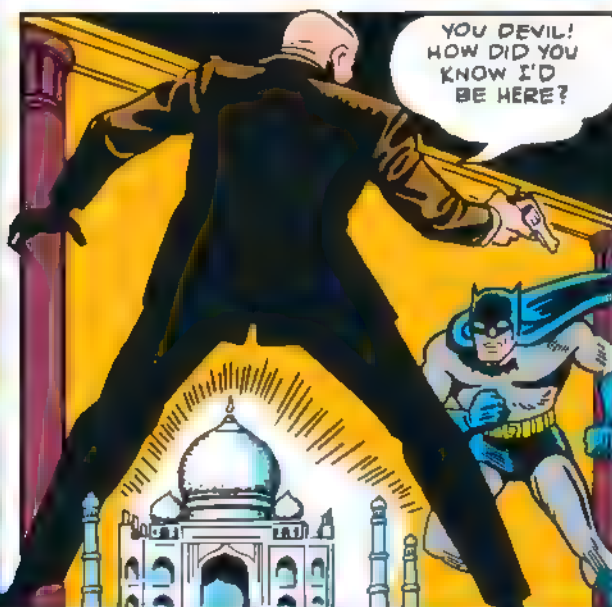
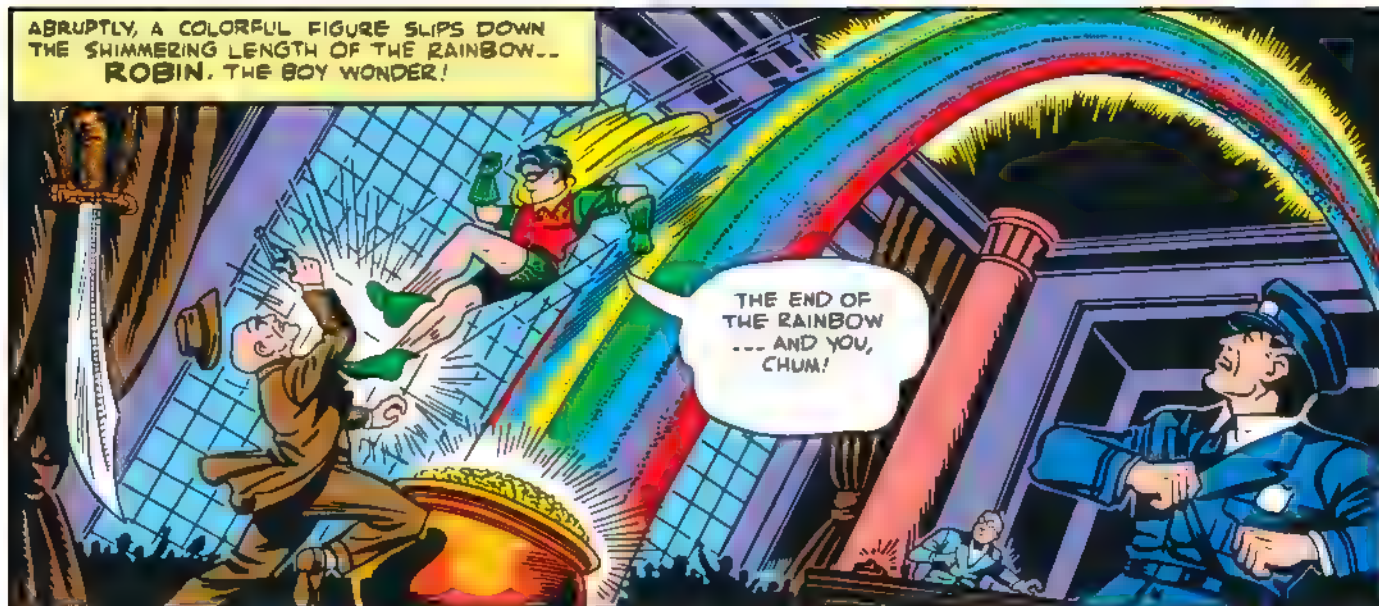
AND AT THE END OF THE RAINBOW IS A POT OF GOLD... GOLDEN TOPAZES!

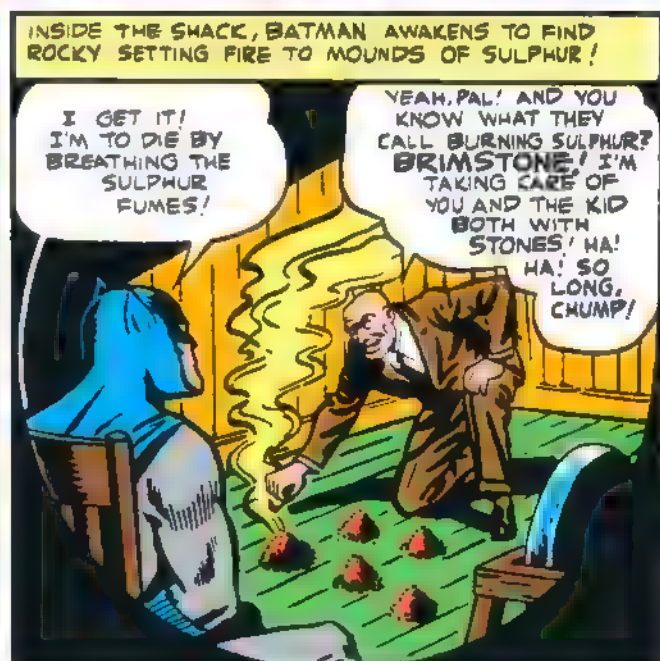
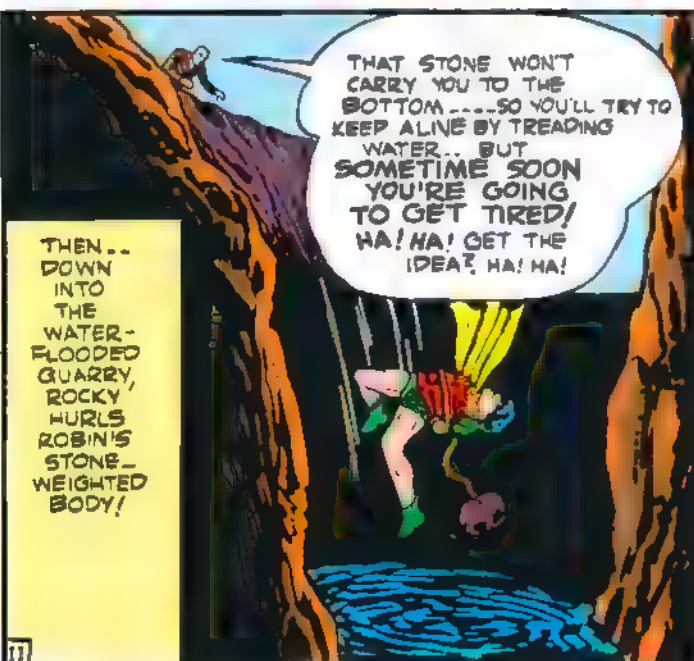
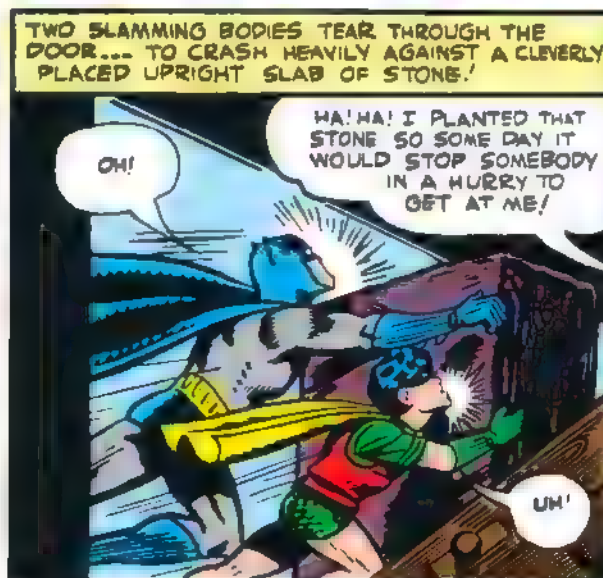
LOOK! A MINIATURE TAJ MAHAL! AND THE WALLS INSIDE ARE INLAID WITH PRECIOUS GEMS!

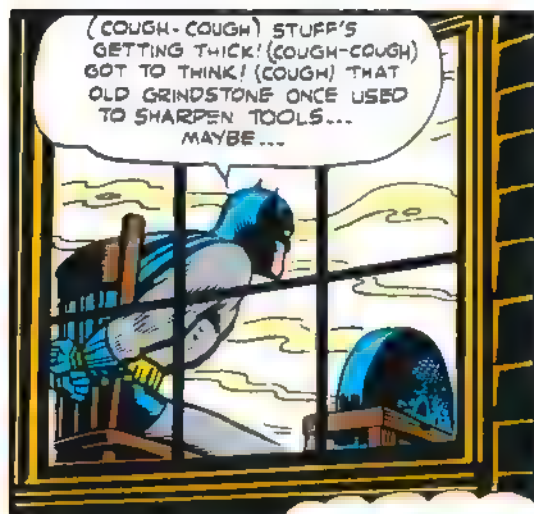
AS BRENNER'S HAND RAISES, POISED FOR THE STROKE THAT MEANS THE LIFE OR DEATH OF A DIAMOND, ANOTHER HAND IS RAISED, POISED FOR THE STROKE THAT MEANS LIFE OR DEATH... FOR BRENNER!

OKAY, PAL... IT'S THE BLOODSTONE FOR YOU!

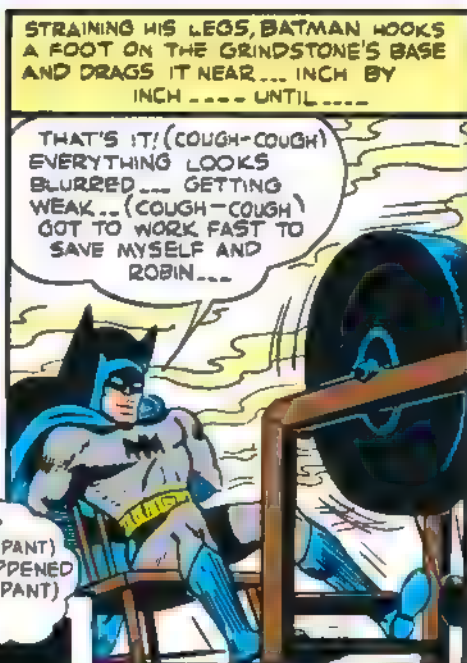
ABRUPTLY, A COLORFUL FIGURE SLIPS DOWN THE SHIMMERING LENGTH OF THE RAINBOW...
ROBIN. THE BOY WONDER!





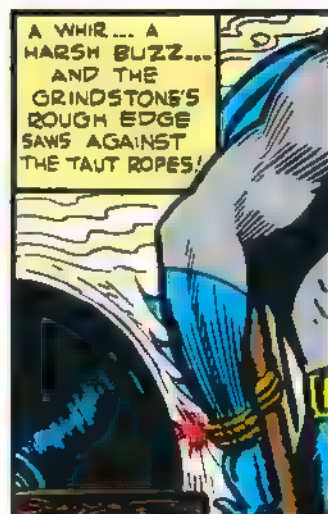


(COUGH-COUGH) STUFF'S GETTING THICK! (COUGH-COUGH) GOT TO THINK! (COUGH) THAT OLD GRINDSTONE ONCE USED TO SHARPEN TOOLS... MAYBE...

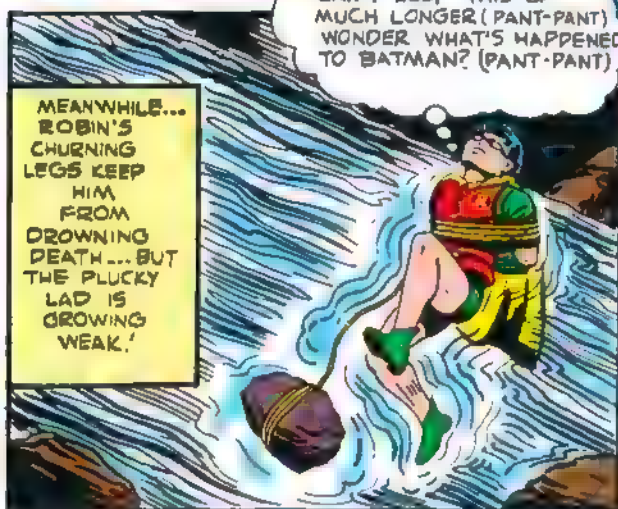


STRAINING HIS LEGS, BATMAN HOOKS A FOOT ON THE GRINDSTONE'S BASE AND DRAGS IT NEAR... INCH BY INCH ---- UNTIL ----

THAT'S IT! (COUGH-COUGH) EVERYTHING LOOKS BLURRED... GETTING WEAK... (COUGH-COUGH) GOT TO WORK FAST TO SAVE MYSELF AND ROBIN...

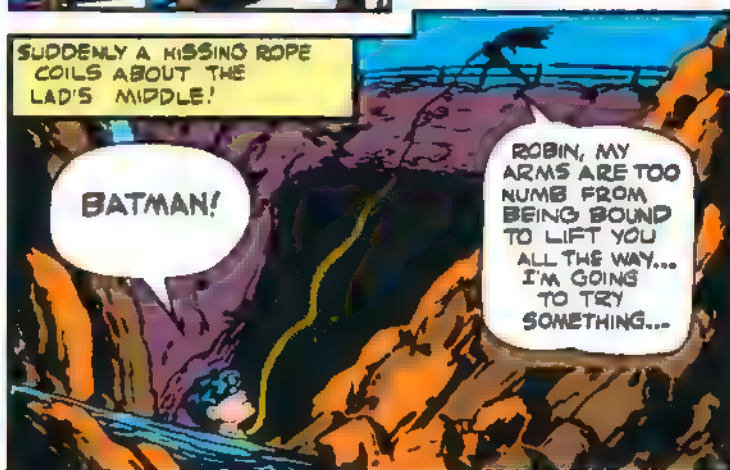


A WHIR... A HARSH BUZZ... AND THE GRINDSTONE'S ROUGH EDGE SAWS AGAINST THE TAUT ROPES!



CAN'T KEEP THIS UP MUCH LONGER (PANT-PANT) WONDER WHAT'S HAPPENED TO BATMAN? (PANT-PANT)

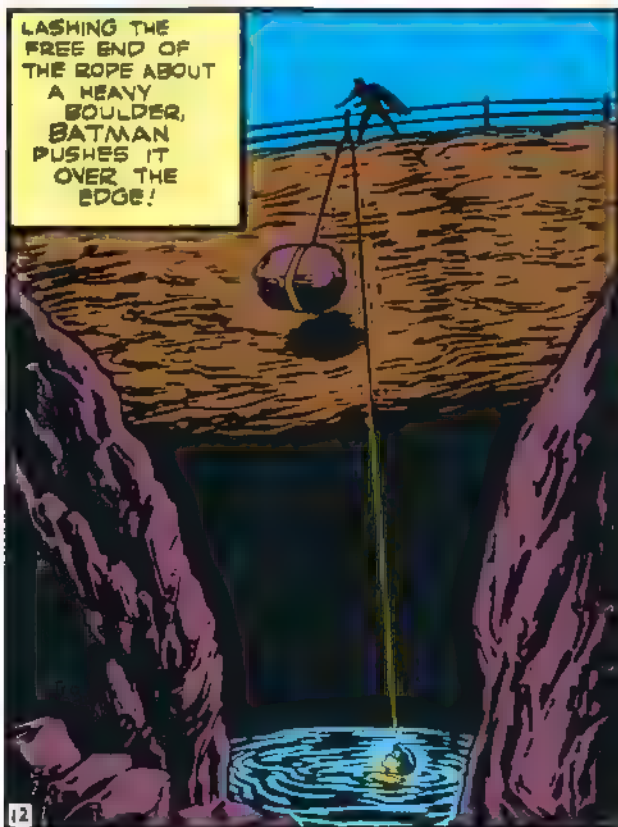
MEANWHILE... ROBIN'S CHURNING LEGS KEEP HIM FROM DROWNING DEATH... BUT THE PLUCKY LAD IS GROWING WEAK!



SUDDENLY A MISSING ROPE COILS ABOUT THE LAD'S MIDDLE!

BATMAN!

ROBIN, MY ARMS ARE TOO NUMB FROM BEING BOUND TO LIFT YOU ALL THE WAY... I'M GOING TO TRY SOMETHING...

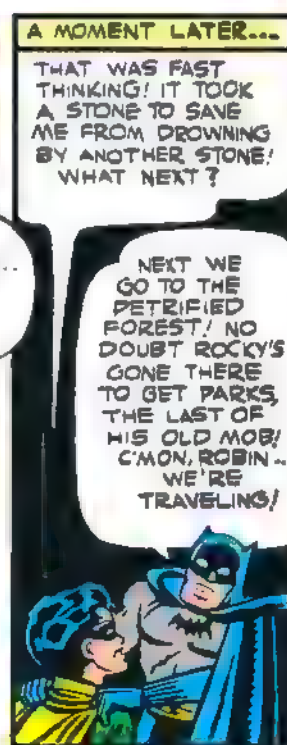


LASHING THE FREE END OF THE ROPE ABOUT A HEAVY BOULDER, BATMAN PUSHES IT OVER THE EDGE!



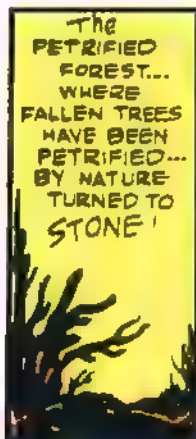
THE HEAVY STONE DROPS AND ROBIN'S LIGHTER BODY IS JERKED OUT OF THE WATER TO ASCEND TO SAFETY!

WOW! ELEVATOR... GOING UP!



A MOMENT LATER... THAT WAS FAST THINKING! IT TOOK A STONE TO SAVE ME FROM DROWNING BY ANOTHER STONE! WHAT NEXT?

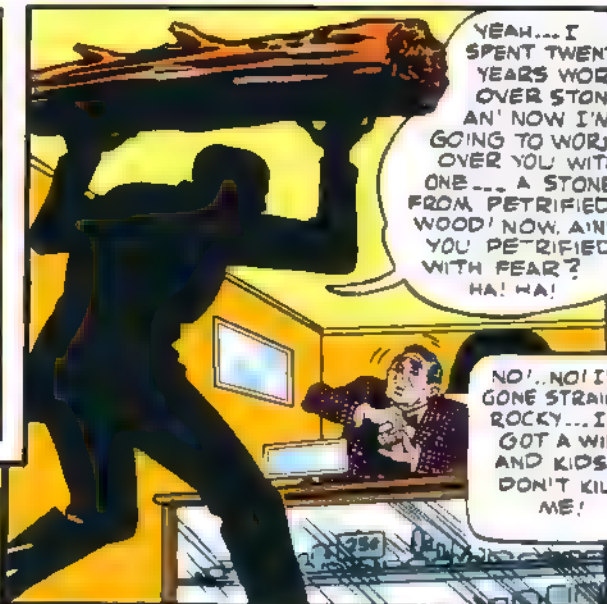
NEXT WE GO TO THE PETRIFIED FOREST! NO DOUBT ROCKY'S GONE THERE TO GET PARKS, THE LAST OF HIS OLD MOB! C'MON, ROBIN... WE'RE TRAVELING!



THE PETRIFIED FOREST... WHERE FALLEN TREES HAVE BEEN PETRIFIED... BY NATURE TURNED TO STONE!



IN HIS CONCESSION, PARKS HAS A SNARLING VISITOR...



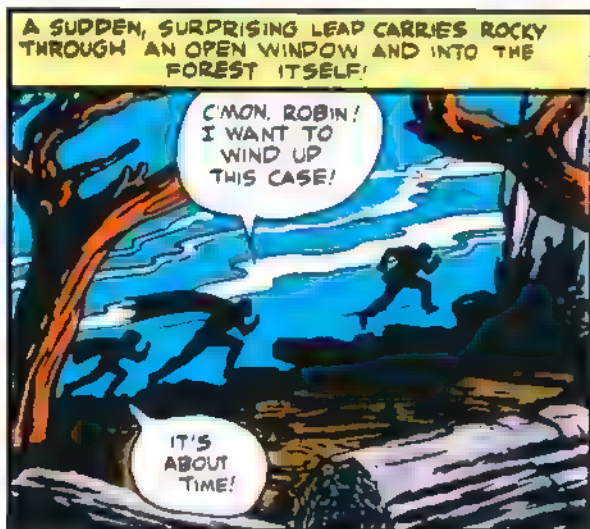
YEAH... I SPENT TWENTY YEARS WORKIN' OVER STONES... AN' NOW I'M GOING TO WORK OVER YOU WITH ONE... A STONE FROM PETRIFIED WOOD! NOW, AIN'T YOU PETRIFIED WITH FEAR? HA! HA!

NO!... NO! I'VE GONE STRAIGHT, ROCKY... I'VE GOT A WIFE AND KIDS... DON'T KILL ME!



DON'T WORRY, PARKS... HE WON'T!

BATMAN AND ROBIN! I THOUGHT I HAD TAKEN CARE OF YOU TWO FOR GOOD!



A SUDDEN, SURPRISING LEAP CARRIES ROCKY THROUGH AN OPEN WINDOW AND INTO THE FOREST ITSELF!

C'MON, ROBIN! I WANT TO WIND UP THIS CASE!

IT'S ABOUT TIME!



WITH POWERFUL, DISTANCE-EATING STRIDES, BATMAN CLOSES THE GAP... AND, ATOP A STONE LOG BRIDGE, TANGLES WITH THE KILLER!



TALK'S CHEAP "PAL!"

OKAY, PAL... I'M GONNA BEAT YOUR FACE IN FOR YOU!



SUDDENLY THE SKIES DARKEN -- AND DOWN POURS THAT PHENOMENON OF NATURE... HAILSTONES!



AND SO IN THIS WEIRD FOREST OF STONE AS HAILSTONES PELT DOWN BATMAN LOCKS IN A LIFE AND DEATH STRUGGLE WITH ROCKY GRIMES

HA, THAT ONE HURT! NOW, THIS IS WHERE YOU GET YOURS!



BUT AS EAGER ROCKY CHARGES, HE SLIDES AND SLIPS ON THE HAILSTONES UNDER-FOOT... AND...

YAAAA-AA!

ONCE AGAIN, STONES... HAILSTONES... HAVE DECIDED ROCKY'S FATE!



AND SO, AS IT MUST TO ALL MEN, DEATH COMES TO ROCKY GRIMES... HE LIVED BY STONES... AND DIED BY STONES...

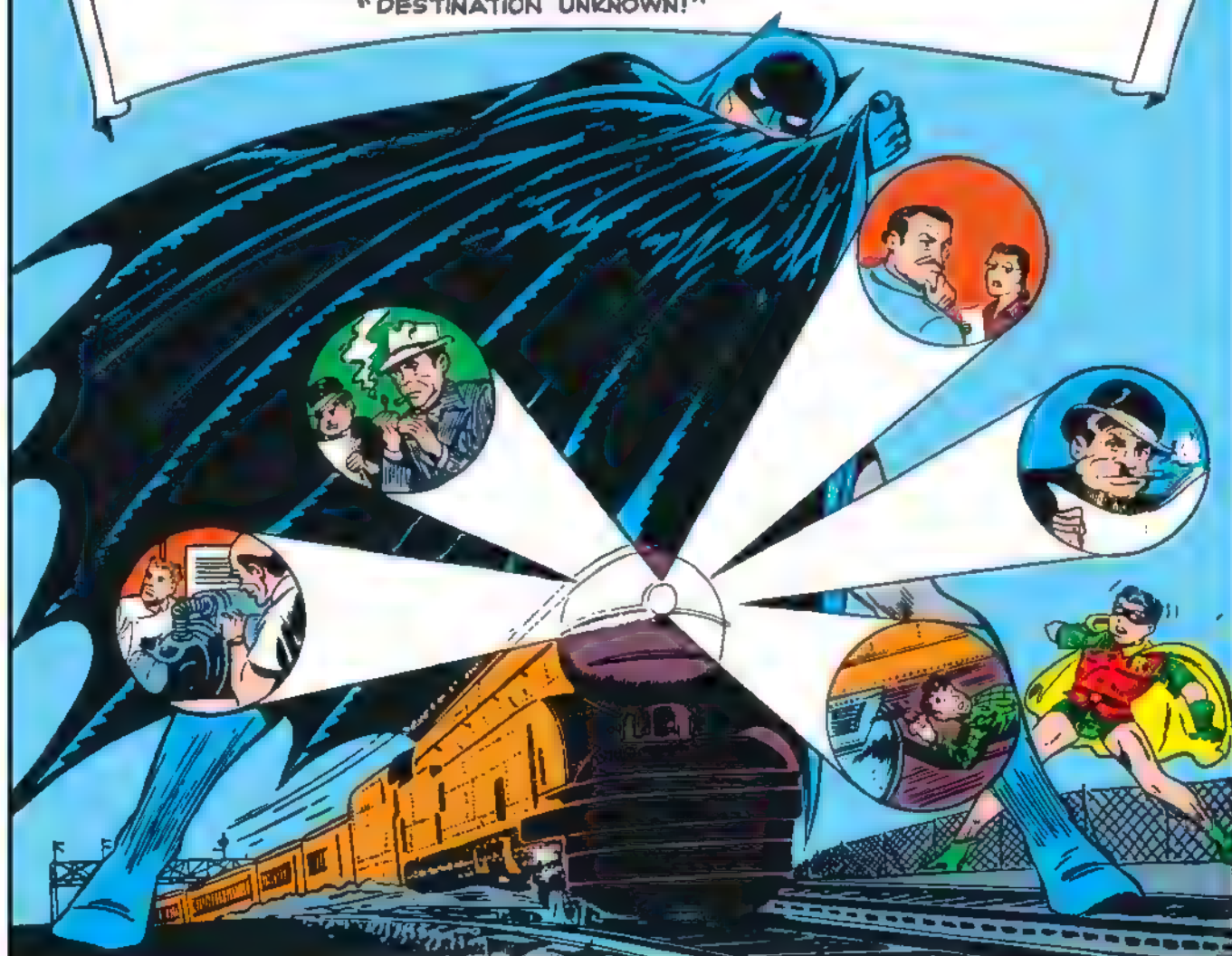
.... AND FINALLY ENDED UP BENEATH ONE... A TOMBSTONE!

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

FEB 15 1966

ALL-L-L ABO-O-O-OARD FOR THE SURPRISE TRIP OF YOUR LIFE...
WITH AS WEIRD AN ASSORTMENT OF FELLOW-PASSENGERS AS EVER RODE A CRACK
TRANSCONTINENTAL FLYER! MEET THE TRAGIC YOUNG PRISONER BOUND FOR THE LETHAL GAS
CHAMBER... THE RICH AND RENOWNED "TRICKY-BUT-TRUE" MAN... THE STRANGELY SILENT FIGURE IN
THE IRON LUNG... THE OVER-AMBITIOUS DETECTIVE... AND LAST BUT NOT LEAST, THE MYSTERIOUS HOBO
RIDING THE RODS!... THE BELL CLANGS, THE WHISTLE SHRILLS, THE HAND OF FATE YANKS THE
THROTTLE WIDE... AND IT TAKES ALL THE STEELY NERVE AND SMASHING STRENGTH
OF THE BATTLING BATMAN AND THE DAREDEVIL ROBIN TO CHECK A ROARING
DASH TO DISASTER IN THIS SUPER-SPEED STORY...
"DESTINATION UNKNOWN!"



THE GATEWAY TO ADVENTURE, IN GOTHAM CITY'S GRAND CENTRAL STATION---

I'M MR. CLAYBORN'S SECRETARY... HE'LL BE FURIOUS IF I MISS THE TRAIN!

NON-STOP TO CALIFORNIA... LET ME SEE YOUR TICKET!

BEYOND, LIKE AN IMPATIENT DRAGON, THE WORLD'S MOST LUXURIOUS TRAIN JOLTS FORWARD AT THE CONDUCTOR'S SIGNAL---

--BO-O-O-OARD!

AN IMPORTANT TRAIN CARRYING IMPORTANT PEOPLE... SUCH AS CLYDE CLAYBORN, COLLECTOR OF ODDITIES, FAMED AS THE "TRICKY-BUT-TRUE" MAN---

NICE HAVING YOU WITH US, MR. CLAYBORN... IF I CAN DO ANYTHING TO MAKE YOUR TRIP ENJOYABLE...

IF YOU CAN FIND ME A STARTLING ODDITY BEFORE WE GET TO CALIFORNIA, I'LL GIVE YOU A \$1,000!

I'LL TRY... BUT NOTHING EVER HAPPENS ON THESE TRAINS!

MISS HIBBS, MAKE A NOTE... IT'S TRICKY, BUT TRUE, THAT OF 2,117 CONDUCTORS I'VE MET, NOT ONE HAS ADDED A NEW ODDITY TO MY COLLECTION!

YES, MR. CLAYBORN!

LATER...

CLYDE CLAYBORN IS LOOKING FOR A NEW ODDITY... PERHAPS YOUR PATIENT IN THE IRON LUNG--

SORRY, MR. FORTESQUE CAN'T BE DISTURBED.

HE'S IN A COMA-- AND IF WE DON'T GET HIM TO THAT CALIFORNIA SPECIALIST IN A HURRY, HE MAY NEVER WAKE UP!

THE LEAST DISTURBANCE MIGHT KILL HIM!

NOR IS MR. FORTESQUE THE ONLY PASSENGER OVER WHOM THE SHADOW OF DEATH LIES DARKLY---

AN ODDITY? I'M ONE... A MAN ABOUT TO BE SENT TO THE LETHAL GAS CHAMBER IN CALIFORNIA FOR A MURDER I DIDN'T COMMIT!

THEN YOU'RE JOHN KEYES, WHO ESCAPED FROM THAT CALIFORNIA PRISON! AND THIS IS--

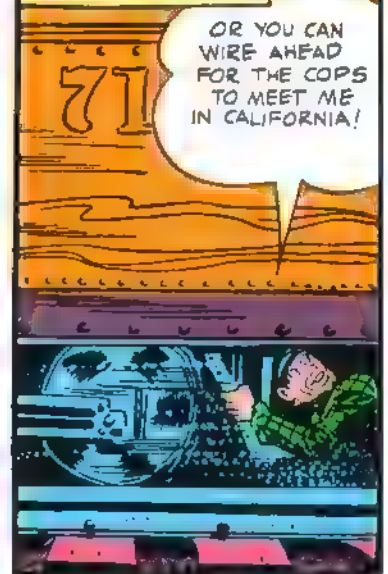
DETECTIVE GUFFEY--AN LIEUTENANT GUFFEY WHEN I GET BACK, FOR CATCHIN' THIS BIRD!

THANKS... BUT I STILL WANT AN ODDITY!

AT THE CITY LIMITS, AS THE TRAIN CRAWLS THROUGH A FREIGHT YARD, A PICTURESQUE FIGURE DARTS BETWEEN RUMBLING WHEELS...



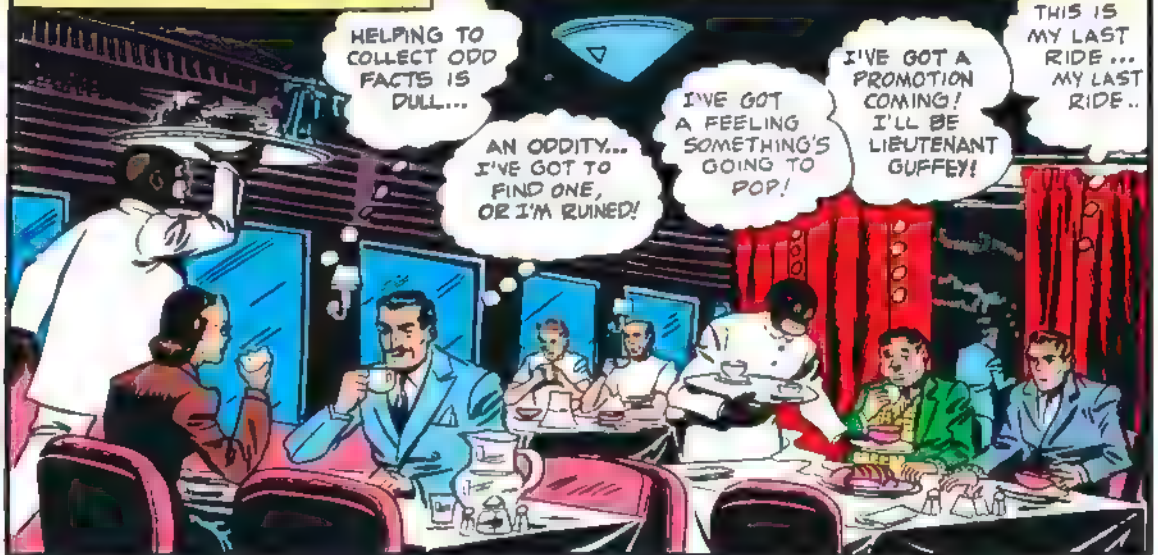
A SECOND LATER...



HOW CAN I GET AN ODDITY FOR CLAYBORN WHEN THIS TRIP IS EXACTLY LIKE ALL THE OTHERS? LIFE IS PRETTY DULL FOR US RAILROAD MEN!



BUT LIFE IS NEVER DULL WHEN ONE LOOKS BENEATH THE SURFACE.. AS A BIT OF MIND-READING AT DINNER-TIME WILL PROVE..



AND THE MYSTERIOUS FIGURE BELOW....



ON INTO GATHERING DARKNESS RUSHES THE TRAIN WITH ITS CARGO OF HUMAN FEARS AND WORRIES...AND STEALTHILY A SHADOW CREEPS OVER THE SWAYING TOPS OF THE COACHES...



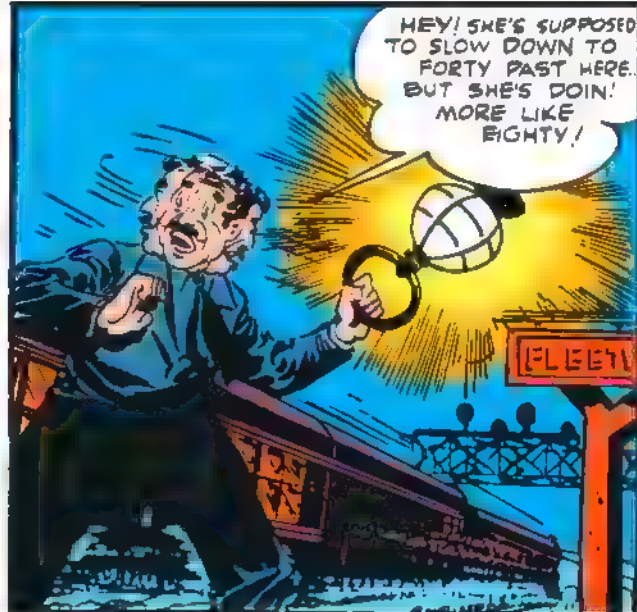
THE NEXT INSTANT, AS THE ENGINEER TURNS...



A PURPOSEFUL HAND PULLS AT THE THROTTLE, AND THE HUGE ENGINE CANNONBALLS AHEAD IN A SURGE OF POWER...



SOMEBODY'S LIABLE TO GET KILLED... BUT IT WON'T BE ME!



HEY! SHE'S SUPPOSED TO SLOW DOWN TO FORTY PAST HERE. BUT SHE'S DOIN' MORE LIKE EIGHTY!



HAS THE ENGINEER GONE CRAZY? SHE'LL LEAVE THE TRACKS AT THIS SPEED!

LURCHING AND SWAYING, THE RUNAWAY TRAIN STREAKS LIKE THE COMET FOR WHICH IT IS NAMED THROUGH VILLAGE AND COUNTRYSIDE...



SHE PASSED THROUGH JAMESTOWN DOING NINETY, AND THERE WASN'T ANYBODY IN SIGHT IN THE ENGINE!

SHE'LL NEVER MAKE THAT CURVE ON TRAVERS TRESTLE!

IN GOTHAM CITY, THE TELETYPE BRINGS STARTLING NEWS TO GORDON...



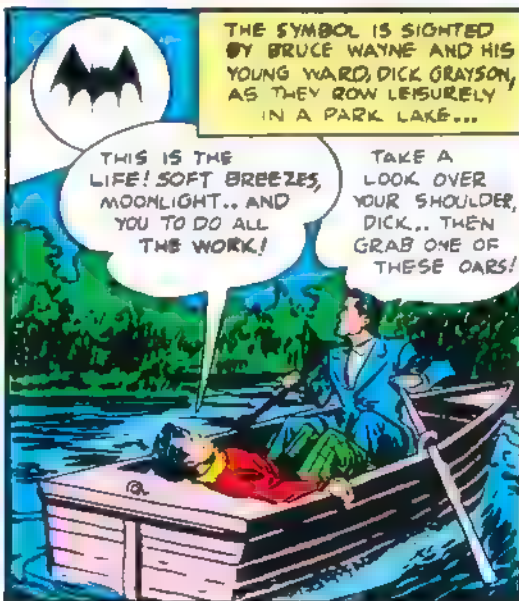
THE COMET RUNNING WILD? HOW COULD ANYONE STOP IT, UNLESS... THE BATMAN!

STABBING UPWARD THROUGH THE NIGHT, A DAZZLING FINGER OF LIGHT OUTLINES A WEIRD BLACK SHAPE AGAINST THE CLOUDS...



IT LOOKS LIKE A BAT!

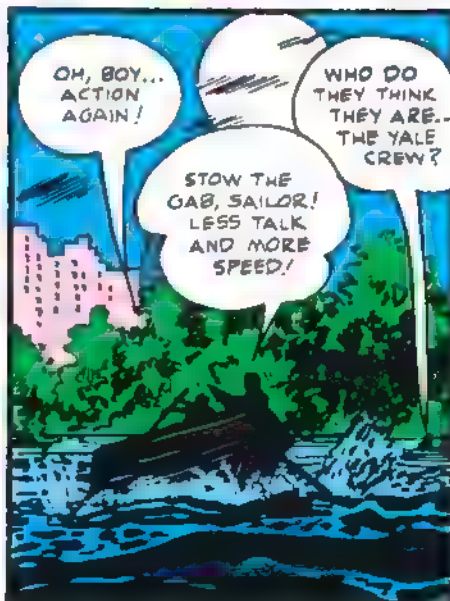
OF COURSE! THAT'S THE SIGNAL FOR THE BATMAN!



THE SYMBOL IS SIGHTED BY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON, AS THEY ROW LEISURELY IN A PARK LAKE...

THIS IS THE LIFE! SOFT BREEZES, MOONLIGHT... AND YOU TO DO ALL THE WORK!

TAKE A LOOK OVER YOUR SHOULDER, DICK... THEN GRAB ONE OF THESE OARS!




OH, BOY... ACTION AGAIN!

WHO DO THEY THINK THEY ARE... THE YALE CREW?

STOW THE GAB, SAILOR! LESS TALK AND MORE SPEED!

HOPE WE
AREN'T LATE.
COMMISSIONER!

BATMAN
AND ROBIN!
THANK GOODNESS
YOU'RE HERE!
THE COMET
IS RUNNING
WILD AND...

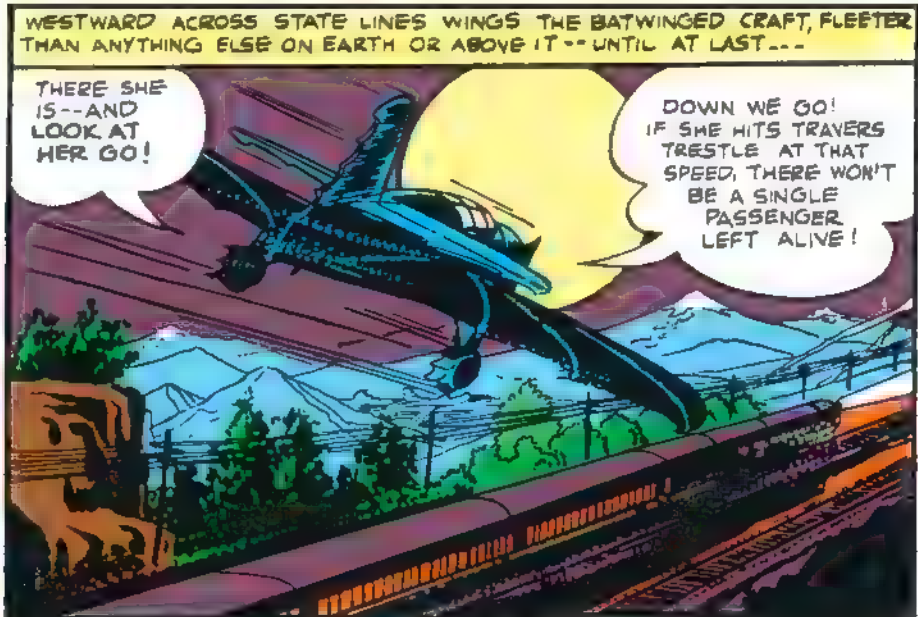


A SWIFT CHANGE OF GARMENTS...
A MAD DASH OVER ROOFTOPS... AND
MOMENTS LATER THE DYNAMIC DUO
SWOOPS INTO GORDON'S OFFICE...

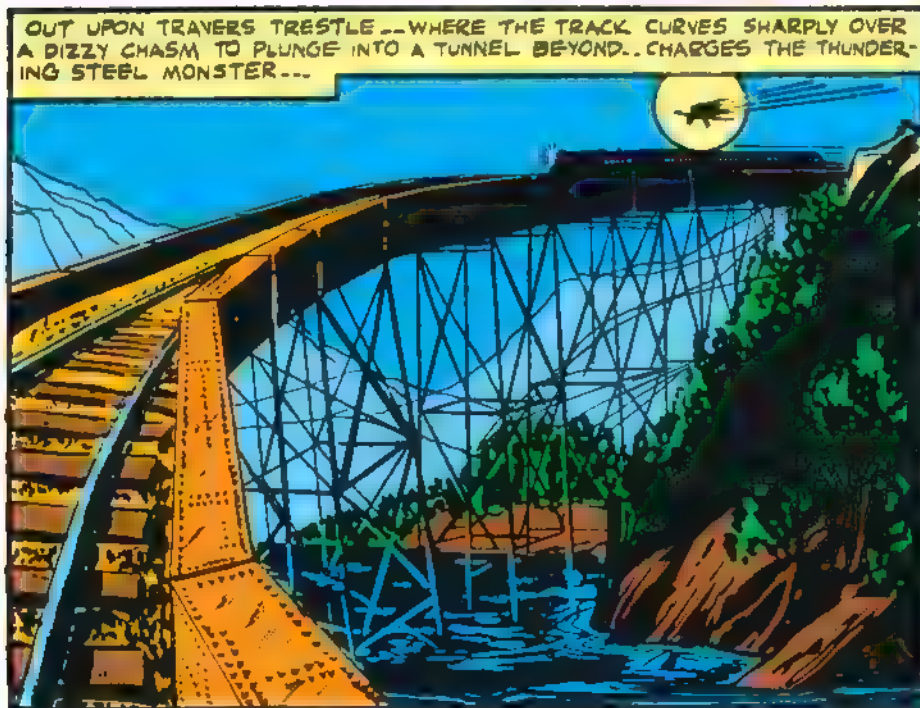
WESTWARD ACROSS STATE LINES WINGS THE BATWINGED CRAFT, FLEETER
THAN ANYTHING ELSE ON EARTH OR ABOVE IT -- UNTIL AT LAST...

THERE SHE
IS--AND
LOOK AT
HER GO!

DOWN WE GO!
IF SHE HITS TRAVERS
TRESTLE AT THAT
SPEED, THERE WON'T
BE A SINGLE
PASSENGER
LEFT ALIVE!

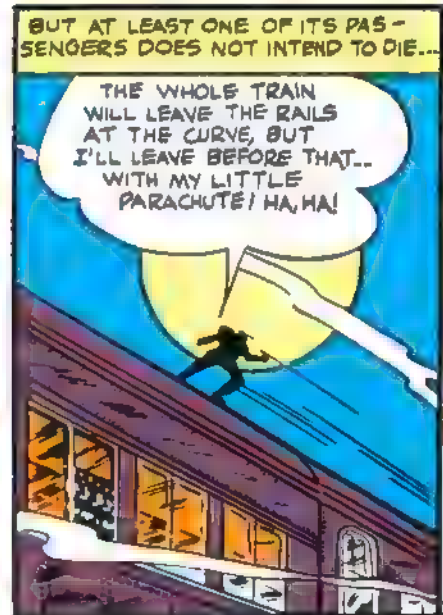


OUT UPON TRAVERS TRESTLE -- WHERE THE TRACK CURVES SHARPLY OVER
A DIZZY CHASM TO PLUNGE INTO A TUNNEL BEYOND -- CHARGES THE THUNDER-
ING STEEL MONSTER...



BUT AT LEAST ONE OF ITS PAS-
SENGERS DOES NOT INTEND TO DIE...

THE WHOLE TRAIN
WILL LEAVE THE RAILS
AT THE CURVE, BUT
I'LL LEAVE BEFORE THAT...
WITH MY LITTLE
PARACHUTE! HA, HA!



SUDDENLY...

WHAT'S THIS!
A PLANE,
AND... THE
BATMAN!

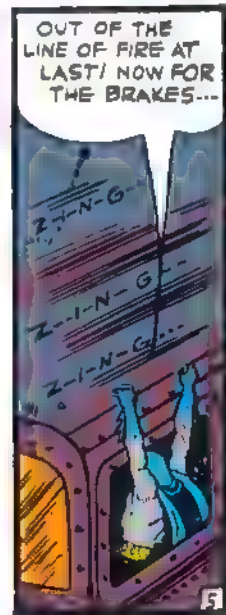


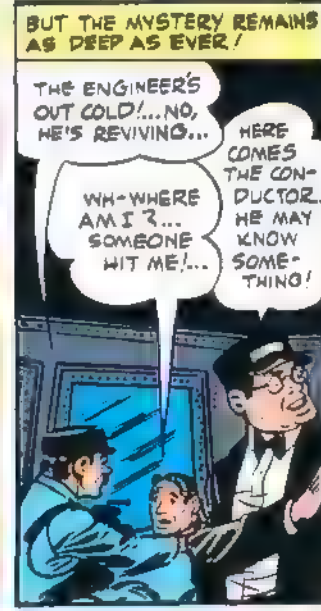
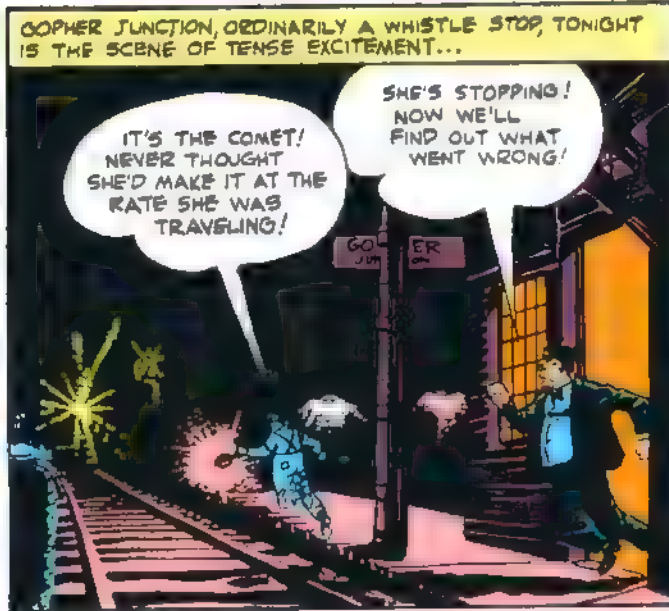
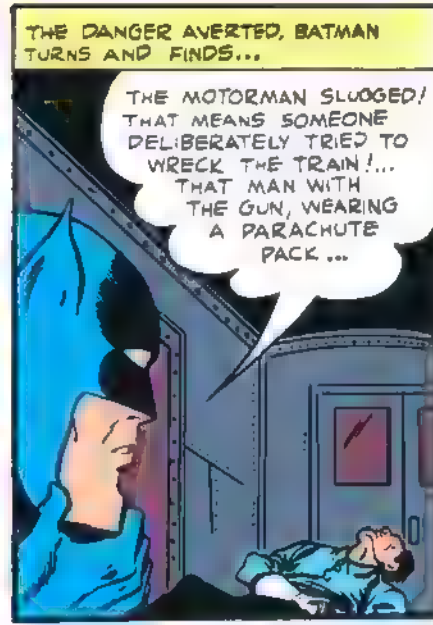
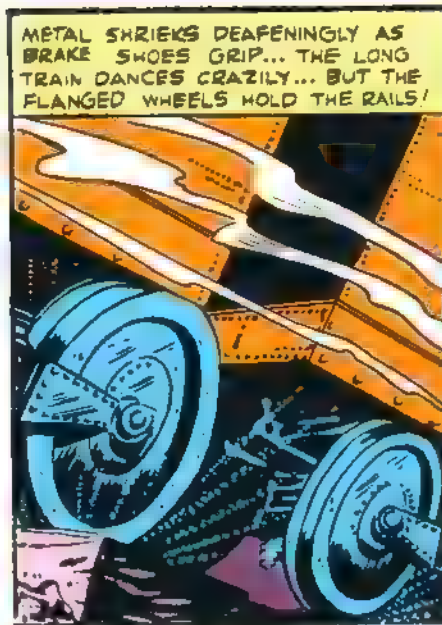
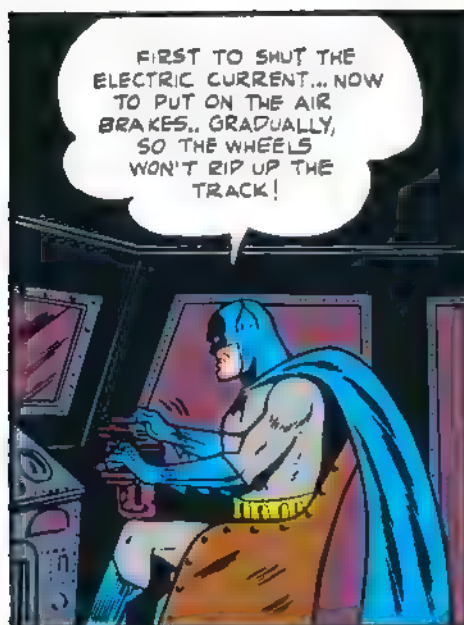
WHINING BULLETS
SPRAY ABOUT
THE BATMAN
AS THE ENGINE
HURTTLES
FORWARD...

NOT EVEN HE
CAN SPOIL MY
GAME! I'LL
OET HIM!



OUT OF THE
LINE OF FIRE AT
LAST! NOW FOR
THE BRAKES...





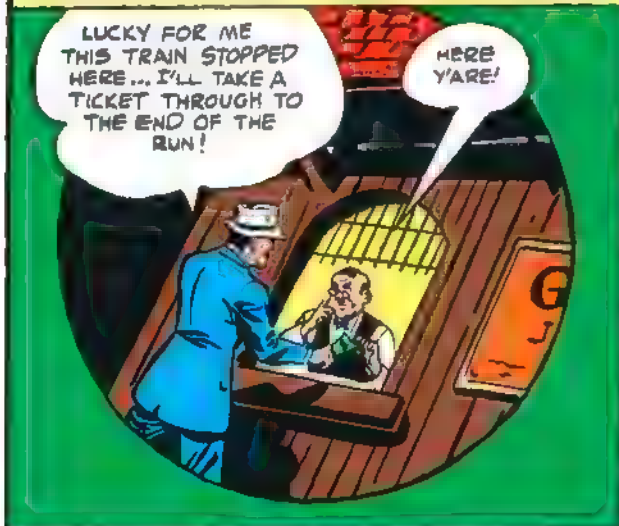
BUT ONE PASSENGER FLITS LIKE A FUGITIVE THROUGH SHADOWS AT THE FARTHER SIDE OF THE TRAIN...



...ONLY TO ENCOUNTER ANOTHER FLITTING SHADOW, THE BATMAN.. WHO SWUNG FROM THE ENGINE A SECOND BEFORE IT GROUND TO A STOP!

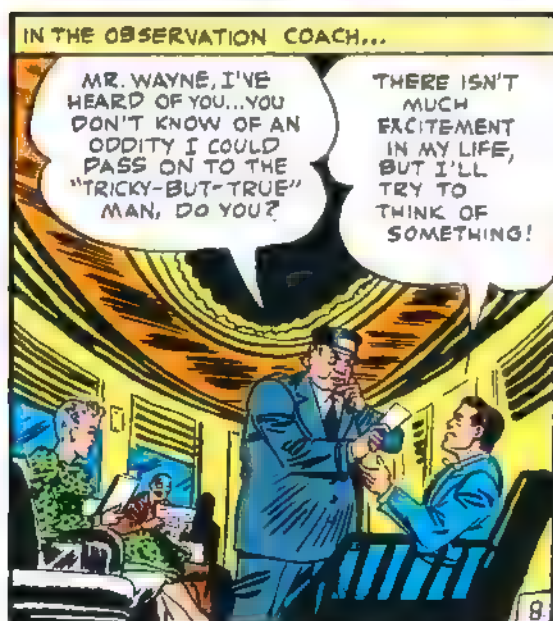
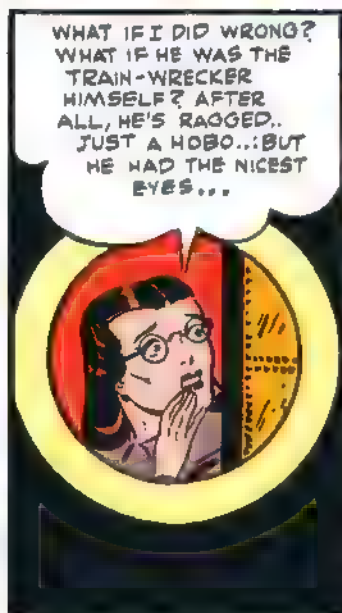


SHUCKING HIS FIGHTING GARB, THE BATMAN DISAPPEARS.. AND A MOMENT LATER BRUCE WAYNE STANDS AT THE TICKET WINDOW AT THE STATION...



MEANWHILE, AT A MAGAZINE STAND, A YOUNG MAN SEEMS TO BE STOCKING UP FOR A LONG LITERARY SESSION...

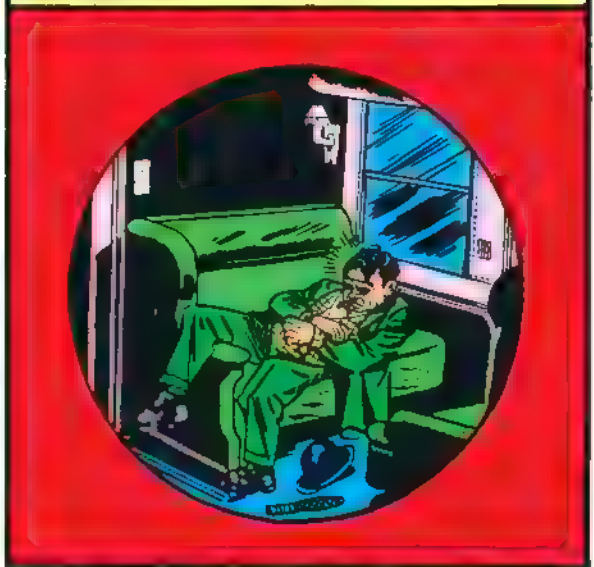




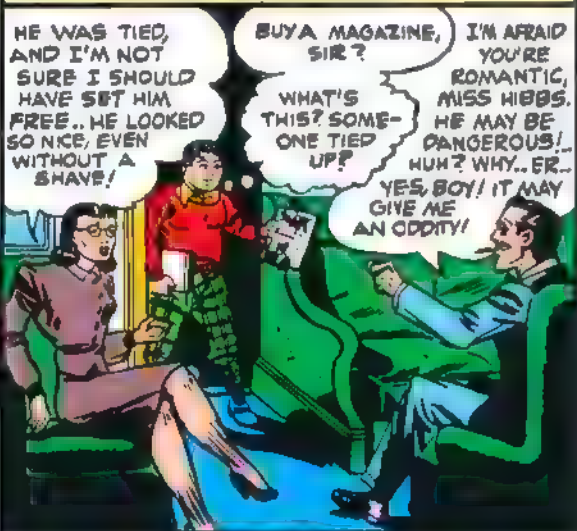
ONCE MORE THE BLACKNESS OF THE OPEN COUNTRY SWALLOWS THE SPEEDING TRAIN... AND MENACE GATHERS LIKE A STORM-CLOUD...



THE BOASTFUL DETECTIVE GUFFEY IS "BLACKED OUT" ALSO...



SCOUTING THROUGH THE TRAIN IN HIS ROLE AS A SALESMAN OF EXCITING STORIES, ROBIN LOOKS AND LISTENS FOR INFORMATION...



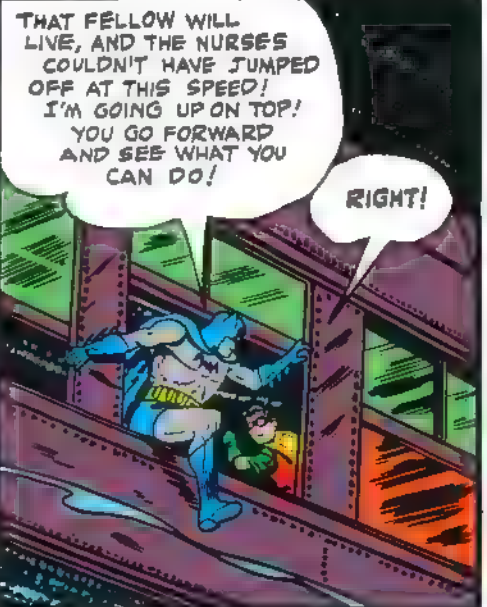
LATER... DICK FINDS BRUCE ALONE... AND...



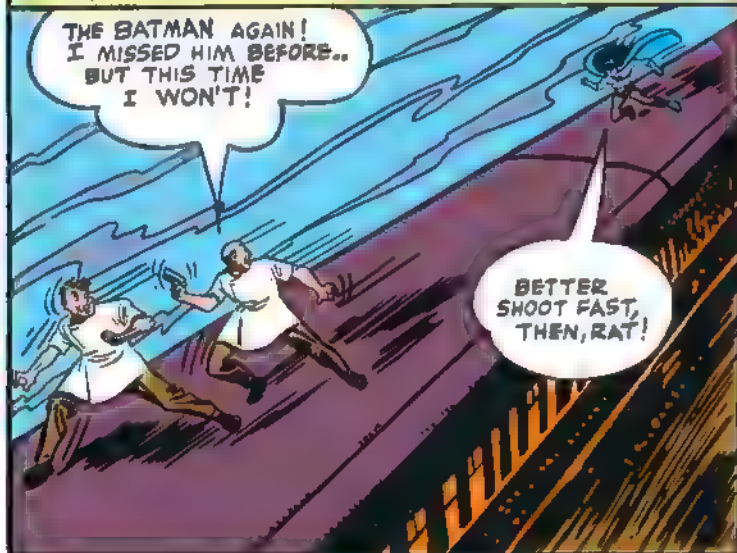
AND ONCE MORE, GARBED IN THEIR MANTLED COSTUMES, THE BATMAN AND HIS BATTLING PAL RACE INTO ACTION...



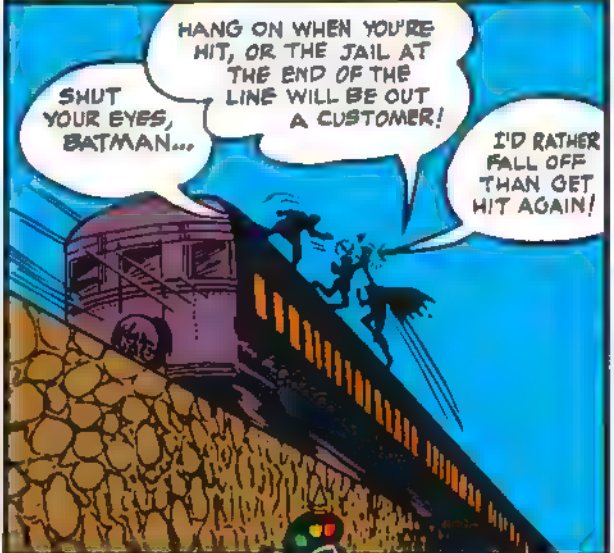
DEATH HAS INDEED COME CLOSE TO THE MAN IN THE IRON LUNG...FOR THE NEXT INSTANT...



CLAMBERING PRECARIOUSLY OVER THE SWAYING TOP OF THE COACH, THE BATMAN SIGHTS.. AND IS SIGHTED BY.. HIS QUARRY!



A PANTHER-SWIFT LUNGE OF A TRAINED, POWERFUL FRAME, AND...

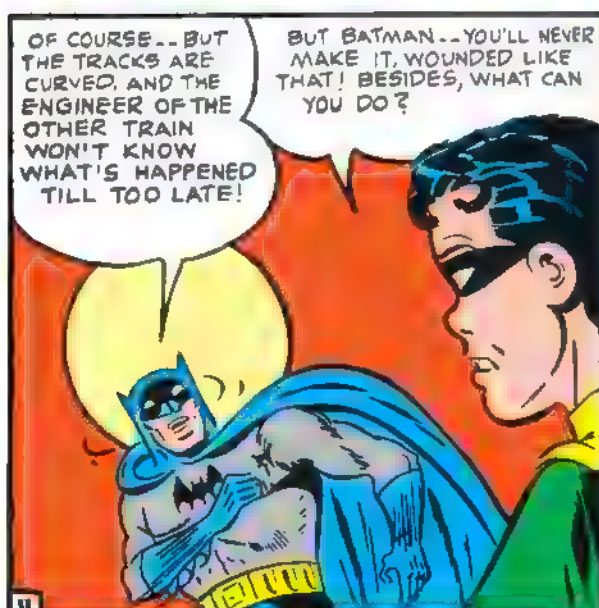
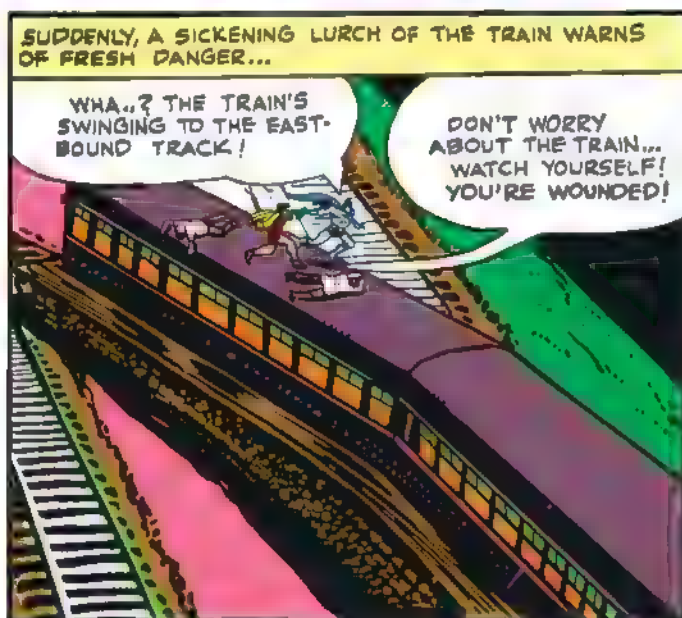
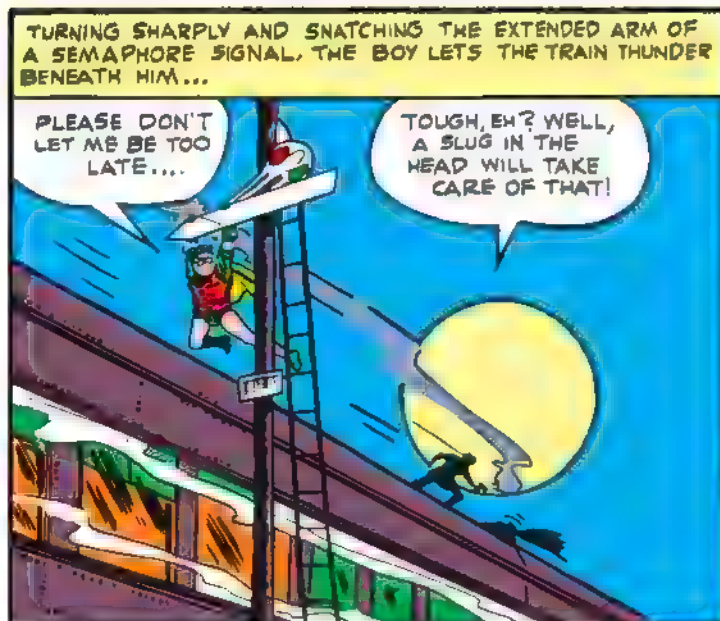


BUT NOT EVEN THE BATMAN'S LIGHTNING SPEED CAN OUTMATCH BLASTING LEAD.. AND THE CRIMINAL'S BULLET STRIKES WITH PILE-DRIVER FORCE!

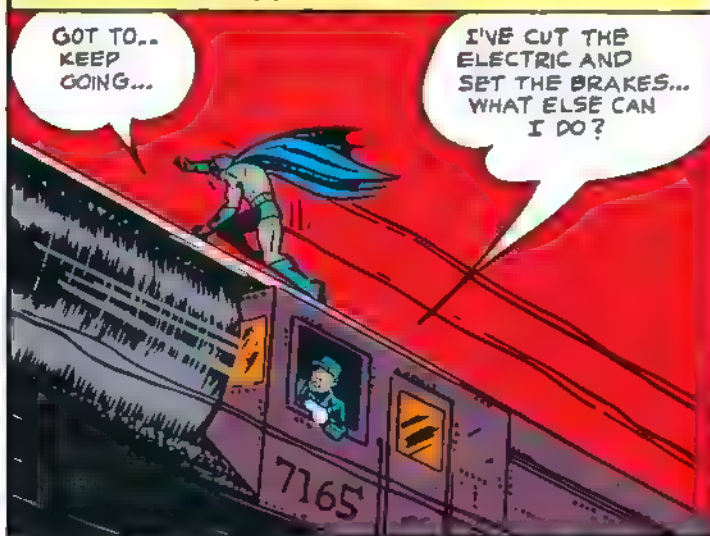


FAR TOWARD THE FRONT OF THE TRAIN, ROBIN HEARS THE BARK OF THE SHOT...





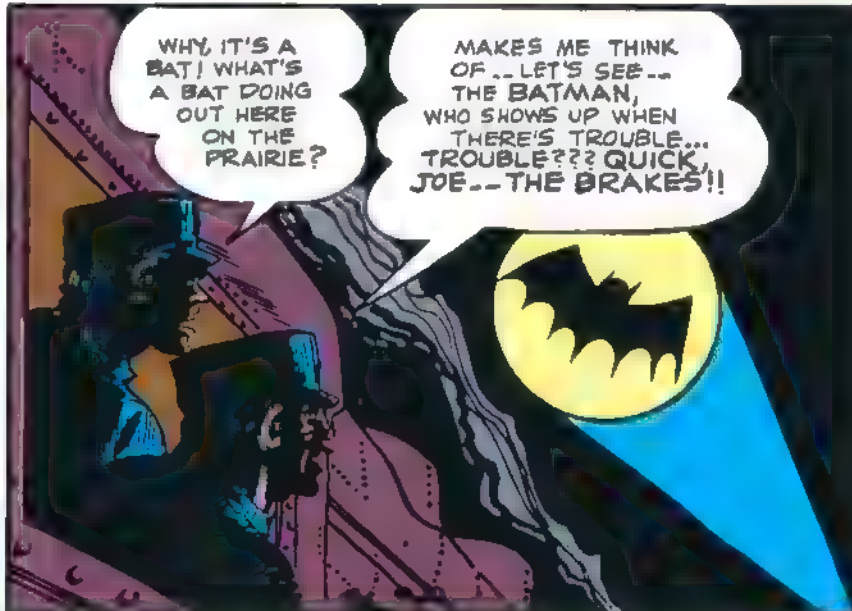
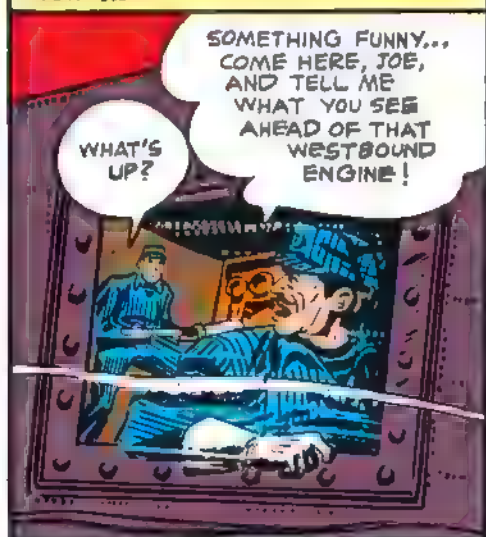
THE ENGINEER, HELPLESSLY AWARE OF THE PERIL, KNOWS NOTHING OF THE WOUNDED MAN FIGHTING A VALIANT BATTLE OVERHEAD...



NOW HE LOWERS HIMSELF TO THE COWCATCHER!... BUT WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, EXCEPT THAT BATMAN WILL BE THE FIRST TO DIE WHEN STEEL MEETS STEEL IN THUNDERING CHAOS?...



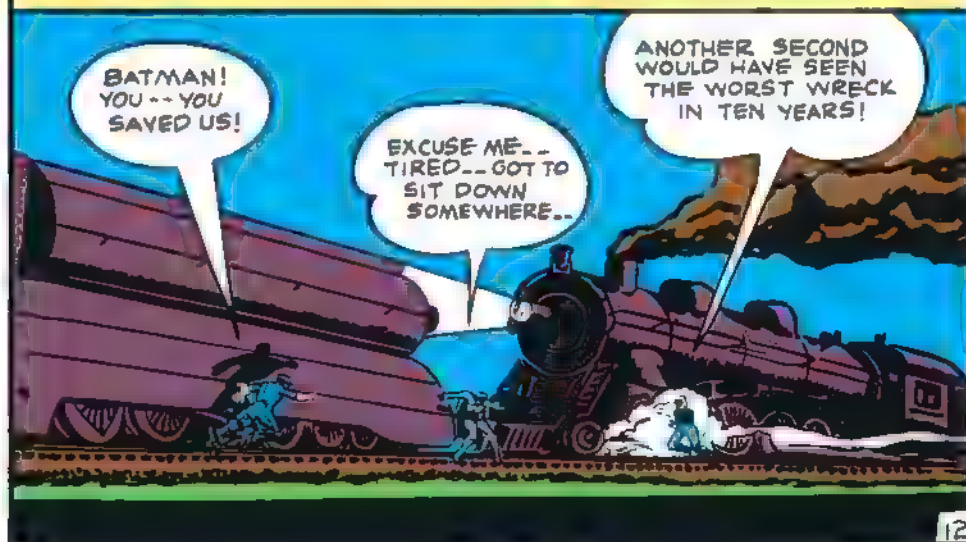
ABOARD THE EASTBOUND EXPRESS, THE ENGINEER BLINKS AT A STRANGE SIGHT...

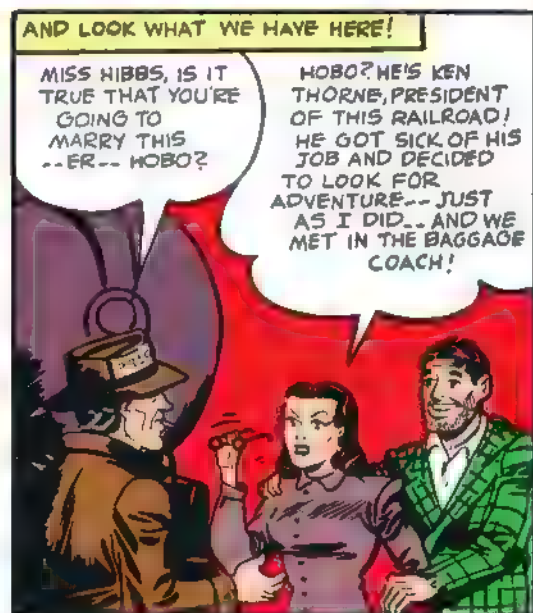
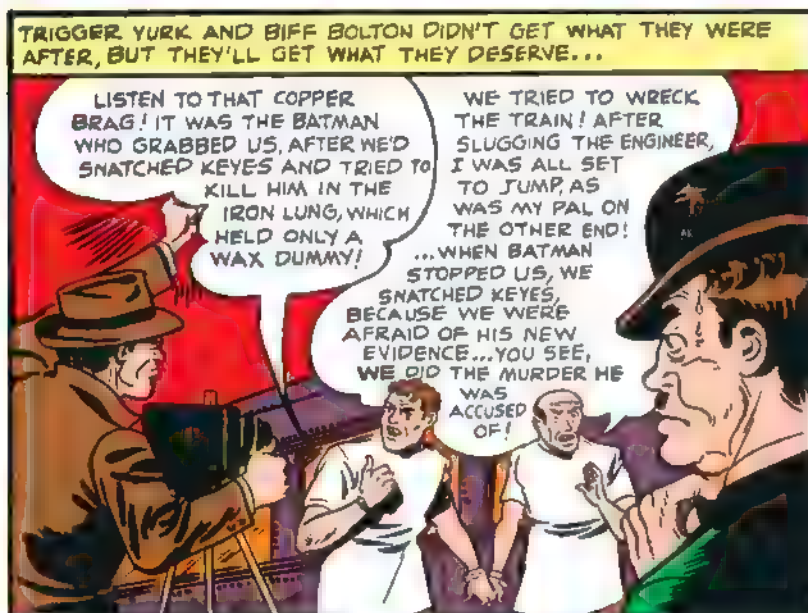
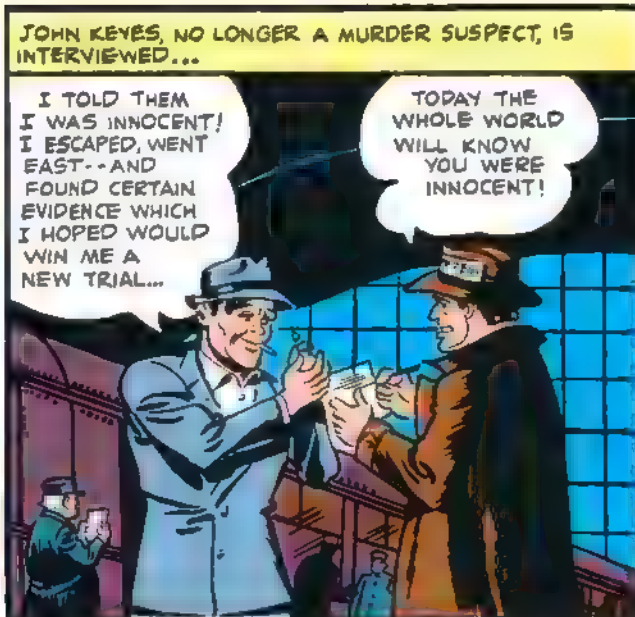


A BAT!... BUT BENEATH THE WEIRD SYMBOL, A MAN'S GRIM DETERMINATION KEEPS IT FLYING!



TWO THUNDERING DRAGONS SHUDDER AND SCREECH UNDER THE SQUEEZE OF AIR BRAKES... SHUDDER AND SLACKEN THEIR TERRIFIC SPEED...







No. 69

A NEW WINNER!
BOY COMMANDOS



The **BATMAN**

Detective

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

NOV.

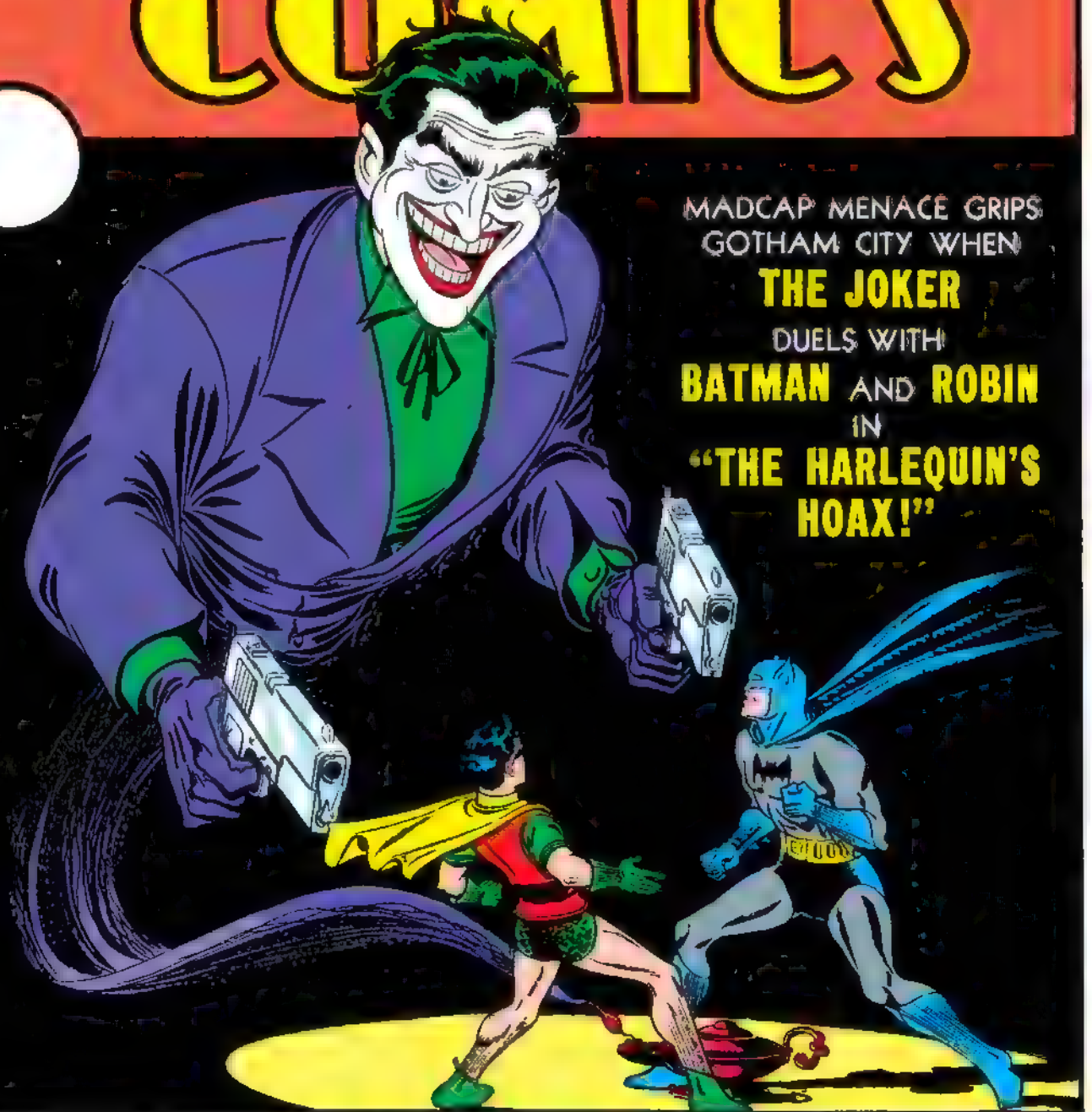
COMICS

MADCAP MENACE GRIPS
GOTHAM CITY WHEN

THE JOKER

DUELS WITH
BATMAN AND ROBIN

IN
**"THE HARLEQUIN'S
HOAX!"**



BATMAN

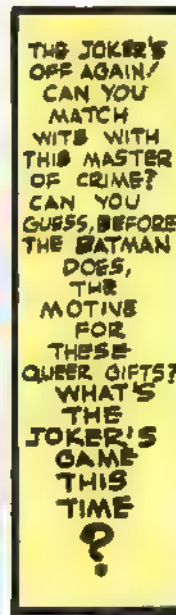
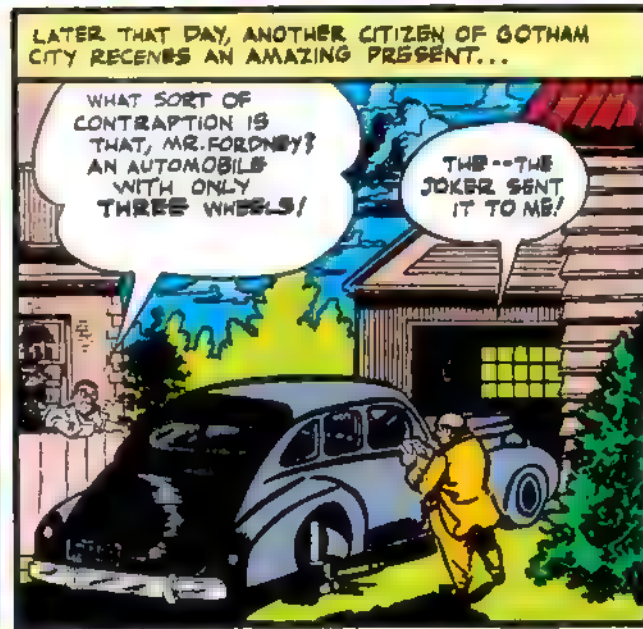
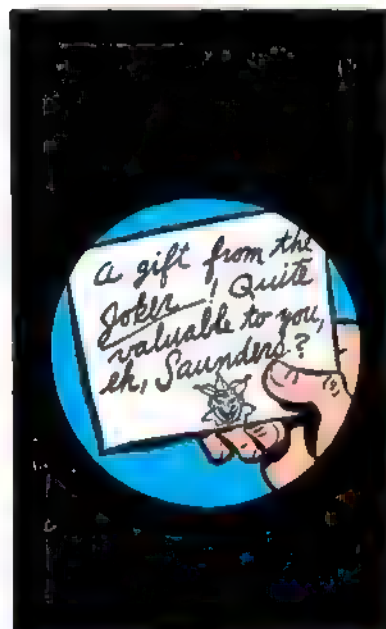
WITH
ROBIN

- THE BOY WONDER -

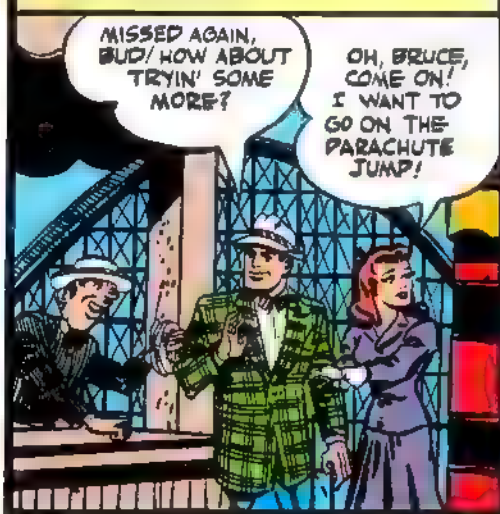


ONCE MORE CRIME'S BRAZEN BUFFOON
OPENS UP HIS BAG OF EVIL TRICKS AND STUNS GOTHAM CITY
WITH A SERIES OF MADCAP PRANKS! YES, THE JOKER--ARCH-
FIEND OF THE UNDERWORLD--IS BACK AGAIN--AND HE'S
HANDING OUT PRESENTS WITH SINISTER GENEROSITY!
SINISTER--FOR THE GRIM JESTER IS NEVER PHILANTH-
ROPIC WITHOUT SOME MALEVOLENT PURPOSE! SO BEWARE
OF CROOKS BEARING GIFTS, AS YOU FOLLOW THAT
TORNADO TEAM OF CRIME-CRUSHERS--BATMAN
AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER--ON THE TWISTED
TRAIL OF THE JOKER IN--"THE HARLEQUIN'S
HOAX!"





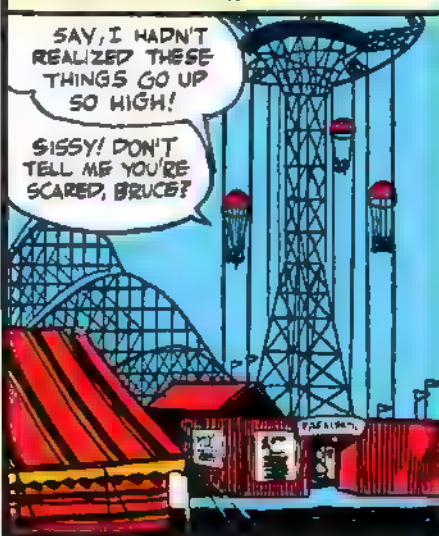
MEANWHILE OTHER PERSONS PLAY A GAME-- A GAME OF CHANCE! BRUCE WAYNE AND LINDA PAGE MAKE MERRY AT THE FUN PARK!



MISSED AGAIN, BUD! HOW ABOUT TRYIN' SOME MORE?

OH, BRUCE, COME ON! I WANT TO GO ON THE PARACHUTE JUMP!

MINUTES LATER... BRUCE AND LINDA ARE BEING PULLED UP 200 FEET INTO THE SKY!



SAY, I HADN'T REALIZED THESE THINGS GO UP SO HIGH!

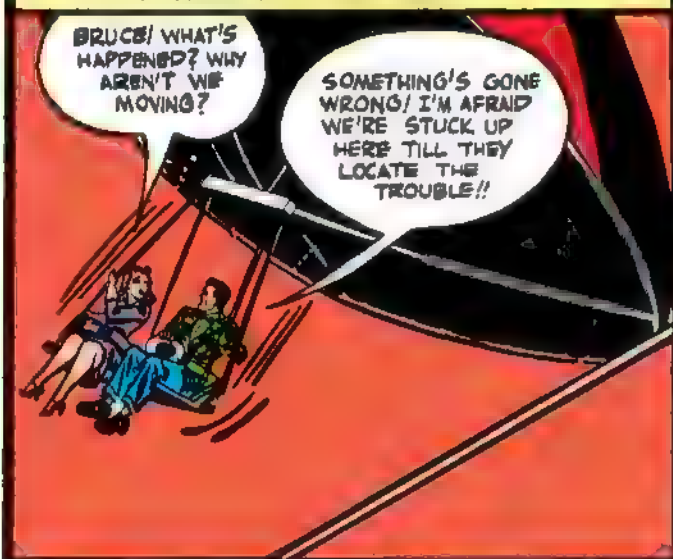
SISSY! DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE SCARED, BRUCE?

THE 'CHUTE REACHES THE TOP! CONTACT--AND THE DUO BEGINS A THRILLING PLUNGE THRU SPACE!



BETTER HOLD TIGHT, LINDA!

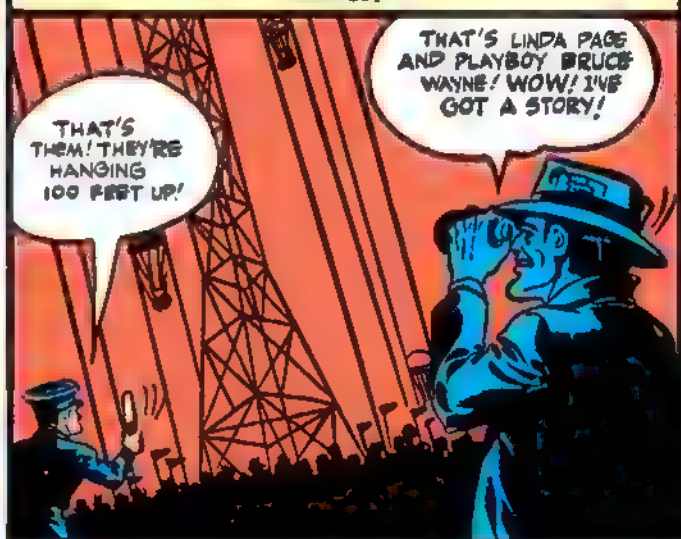
HALFWAY DOWN, THE CHUTE SUDDENLY BOUNCES CRAZILY... AND COMES TO A DEAD STOP!



BRUCE! WHAT'S HAPPENED? WHY AREN'T WE MOVING?

SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG! I'M AFRAID WE'RE STUCK UP HERE TILL THEY LOCATE THE TROUBLE!!

THE NEWS SPREADS LIKE WILDFIRE! SHOUTING, EXCITED HUMANS PUSH FORWARD, EYES TURNED UP TO THE HELPLESS COUPLE!



THAT'S THEM! THEY'RE HANGING 100 FEET UP!

THAT'S LINDA PAGE AND PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE! WOW! I'VE GOT A STORY!

ONE INSANE HOUR LATER/ SANDWICHES AND A MIKE ARE HAULED UP TO THE PAIR ...



IF ANY OF MY FAMILY ARE LISTENING IN, I DON'T WANT THEM TO WORRY IF I'M LATE FOR SUPPER!

AND IF MY WARD, DICK, IS LISTENING TO MY VOICE, DON'T WORRY IF I'M LATE FOR SUPPER!

ANOTHER HOUR PASSES... SLOWLY! THEN A MILE-LONG FLOOD OF LIGHT BLAZONS A WEIRD SYMBOL AGAINST THE SKY!



LOOK! A BAT!

THAT'S FROM POLICE HEADQUARTERS! THEY'RE CALLING M...THE BATMAN!

JUST THINK, BRUCE! SOMEWHERE THE BATMAN IS GOING INTO ACTION NOW!



LIKE FUN! HE'S STUCK HERE IN A PARACHUTE!

BRUCE WAYNE, IN REALITY THE BATMAN, UNABLE TO ANSWER AN OFFICIAL SUMMONS WITHOUT AROUSING LINDA'S SUSPICIONS! WHAT CAN HE DO?

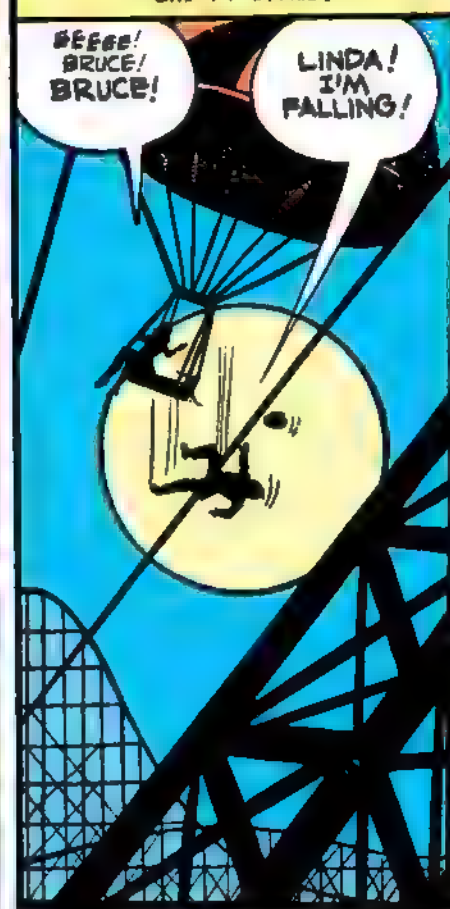


I'VE GOT TO GET DOWN... AND RIGHT NOW THERE'S ONLY ONE WAY TO DO IT!

FURTIVELY, HIS FINGERS UNFASTEN THE SAFETY BELT...



...AND BRUCE DROPS FORWARD INTO EMPTY SPACE!



BUT THAT "FALL" IS CHECKED AS TRAINED, STEELY FINGERS CLAMP VISELIKE ON THE CABLE!



MADE IT! WHEW! THE THINGS I GO THRU TO KEEP MY IDENTITY A SECRET!

I'LL GO DOWN SLOWLY... PRETEND I'M SCARED I MIGHT SLIP!



EASY, NOW!

THAT'S IT! CAREFUL!



MINUTES LATER...

SOMEBODY CALL A TAXI TO TAKE THIS MAN HOME!

THE GIRL... WHAT ABOUT THE GIRL?



THE TROUBLE'S NEARLY FIXED! SHE'LL BE DOWN SOON!

BOY, THAT GUY LOOKED ALL IN!

SO WOULD YOU AFTER THAT STRAIN! I'LL BET THAT GUY DOESN'T STIR OUTA BED FOR A WEEK!



ON THE CONTRARY... FOR, MINUTES AFTER, CLAD IN WEIRD ACTION GARB, THE BATMAN IS DEFINITELY ON THE MOVE!

I'M LATE... GORDON'S PROBABLY WORRYING... WONDER WHAT HE'S GOT ON THE FIRE?

LATER... POLICE HEADQUARTERS... AND BATMAN LISTENS TO THE LATEST CLOWNING OF THE JOKER...

THAT'S OUR CASE! A RADIO WITHOUT A LOUDSPEAKER... AN AUTO WITH THREE WHEELS... A TELESCOPE WITHOUT A LENS...

AND A CLOCK WITHOUT AN HOUR HAND! I KNOW... IT ALL SEEMS ILLOGICAL, CRAZY... LIKE A JIGSAW OF MIS-MATCHING PARTS...

... BUT THE JOKER ALWAYS FITS THOSE PARTS TOGETHER TO FORM A CRIME PATTERN! I'VE GOT TO STOP THAT MAN... I'VE GOT TO!

WHAT MADCAP MENACE, INDEED, IS THE CUNNING CRIME CLOWN PLANNING? WHAT HAS THE JOKER GOT UP HIS TRICKY SLEEVE?

BUT THE ANSWER IS SOON FORTHCOMING! THE FOLLOWING NIGHT, AS DARKNESS BLANKETS GOTHAM CITY IN ITS SOOTHING FOLDS...

OKAY, JOKER, THE WINDOW'S OPEN!

GOOD! THE COAST IS CLEAR—LET'S GO!

HEY! WHAT ARE YOU DOING BACK HERE?

JUST ROBBING A STORE, OFFICER! ANY OBJECTIONS? HA! HA!

UH!

MOMENTS LATER...

GEE, JOKER, WHAT A HAUL! AND IT WAS EASY, TOO!

EVERYTHING IS EASY WHEN THE JOKER PLANS!... EASY AS IT IS TO LAUGH! HA! HA! HA! HA!

MORNING... AND NEWSPAPER HEAD-
LINES SCREAM CRIME AT CITIZENS
OF GOTHAM CITY!

WUKTRY!
JOKER ROBS
DEPARTMENT
STORE!
WUKTRY!

...AND POLICE
FOUND THE
BURGLAR
ALARMS
OFF, BRUCE!
THAT'S HOW
THE JOKER
PULLED THE
JOB SO EASILY!

YES... AND
NOTICE
THE NAME
OF THE
MANAGER
OF THAT
STORE...
CHARLES
SAUNDERS!

WHY... HE'S
THE FELLOW
WHO
RECEIVED
THAT RADIO
WITHOUT A
LOUDSPEAKER
FROM THE
JOKER! SAY,
THINK IT WAS
AN INSIDE
JOB?

MAIGHTY
QUEER
PICK!
BATMAN
AND
ROBIN
ARE
GOING
TO DO
SOME
DETECTIVE
WORK TONIGHT!

NIGHT COMES... AND LIKE NOCTURNAL, AWAKENING
CREATURES OF THE DARKNESS, THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN MOVE ON THE PROWL!

ONE OF THE
MEN, FORDNEY, IS
SUPERINTENDENT OF
A CAMERA CONCERN!
ROBIN, IF THE JOKER
STICKS TO FORMULA
AS IN THE PAST...
WE'LL MEET HIM
TONIGHT!

MAYBE... BUT
I DON'T SEE
WHY A MAN
SHOULD HELP
THE JOKER IN
RETURN FOR
A CRAZY GIFT!

THE STORAGE WAREHOUSE OF THE SHUTTER
CAMERA CO...

THESE BARRELS
WERE STORED HERE
TONIGHT, AND FORDNEY
SAID NOT TO TOUCH
'EM! WONDER WHAT'S
IN 'EM?

YOU WON'T
HAVE TO
WONDER
LONG!
HA! HA!

OH-H-H-H...

BUT, ALSO STORED IN THE
WAREHOUSE IS DYNAMITE...
DYNAMITE IN THE PERSONS
OF BATMAN AND ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER!

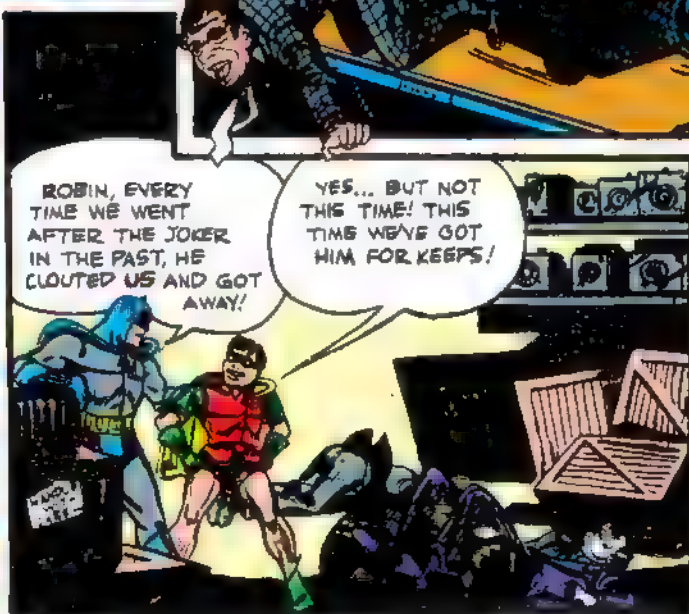
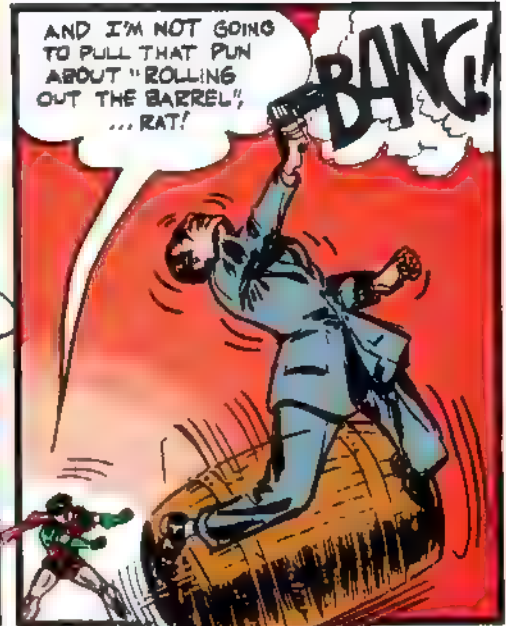
LOOKS LIKE
YOU CALLED
YOUR SHOT,
BATMAN!

YOU!!

RIGHT, ROBIN...
AND NOW THIS
CALLS FOR
SOME
FISTICUFFS!

SHUTTER CAMERA
HANDLE
WITH
CARE

CAUTION!



IS THIS CASE OVER ALREADY?? IS THE JOKER STOPPED BEFORE HE CAN GET STARTED? OR DOES THE CUNNING CRIME CLOWN STILL HOLD AN ACE UP HIS SLEEVE?

LATER... AFTER JOKER AND COMPANY ARE TRUSSED AND TOSSED INTO THE GETAWAY TRUCK...

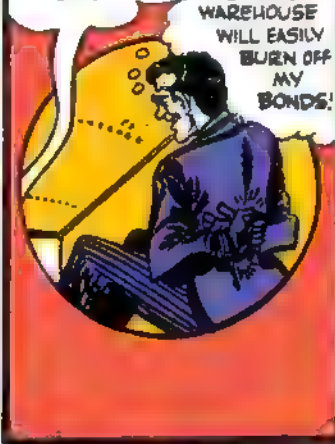
BATMAN, WHY SHOULD THE JOKER STEAL CAMERAS? HE USUALLY GOES AFTER MORE VALUABLE LOOT!

BUT CAMERAS ARE VERY VALUABLE NOW... SINCE THE WAR! NO MORE CAMERAS ARE BEING MADE!



WELL, ROBIN, I THINK THIS TIME WE'LL PUT THE JOKER AWAY FOR SAFEKEEPING, EH?

SO YOU THINK! THIS DEVELOPING ACID I PALMED IN THE CAMERA WAREHOUSE WILL EASILY BURN OFF MY BONDS!



OH-OH! THAT SOUNDS LIKE A FLAT TIRE IN THE REAR! GOING TO TRY TO KEEP ON GOING?

NOPE!..WE CAN'T AFFORD TO DEPRIVE OUR GOVERNMENT OF EXTRA RUBBER FROM TIRES GOING BAD!

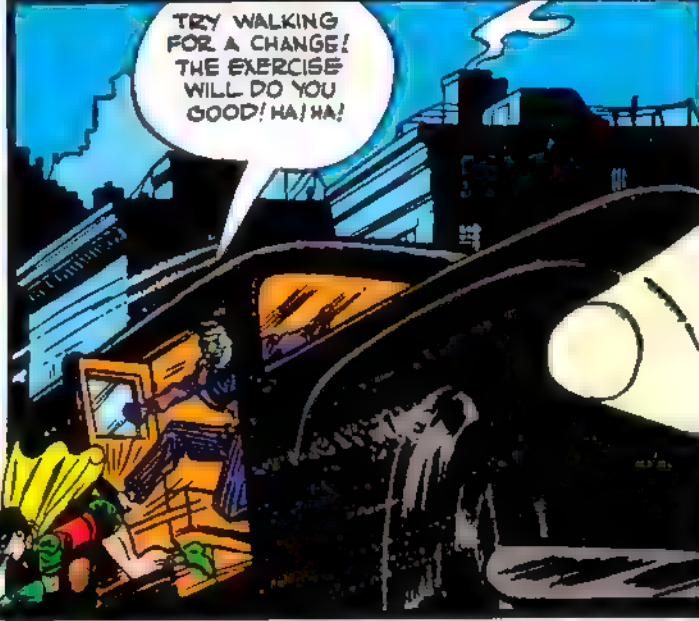


AND AS THE BATMAN INVESTIGATES... THE JOKER MOVES WITH THE SPEED OF A STRIKING RATTLER!

ALL RIGHT, BRAT... I'M TAKING OVER NOW!



TRY WALKING FOR A CHANGE! THE EXERCISE WILL DO YOU GOOD! HA/HA!



ONLY A TAUNTING LAUGH TRAILS BEHIND AS THE JOKER MAKES HIS ESCAPE!

WELL, WHADDYA KNOW?! HE GOT AWAY!

ROBIN, WILL YOU PLEASE KICK ME IN THE PANTS... AND DO IT WITHOUT ASKING ANY QUESTIONS?



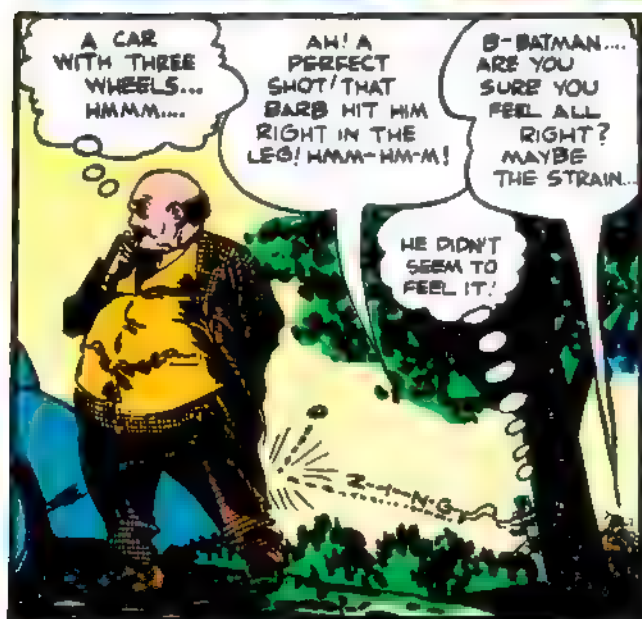
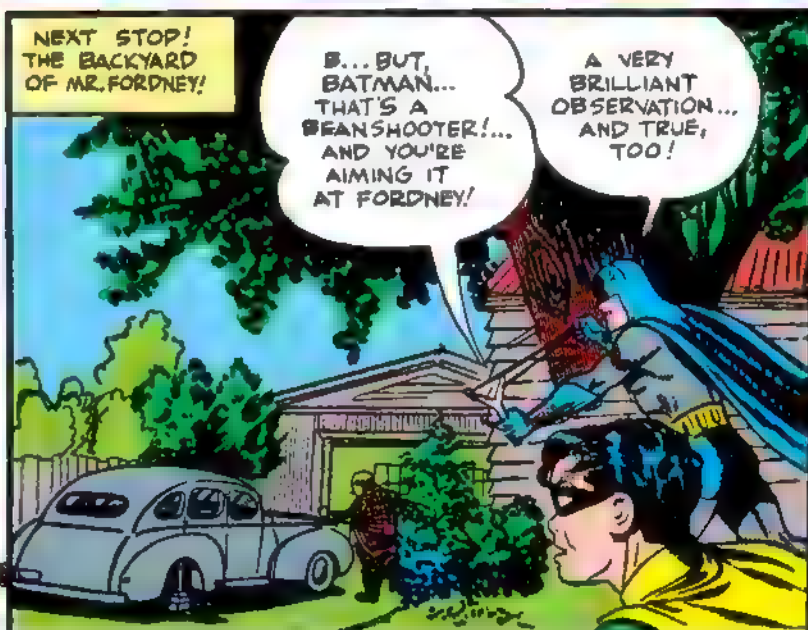
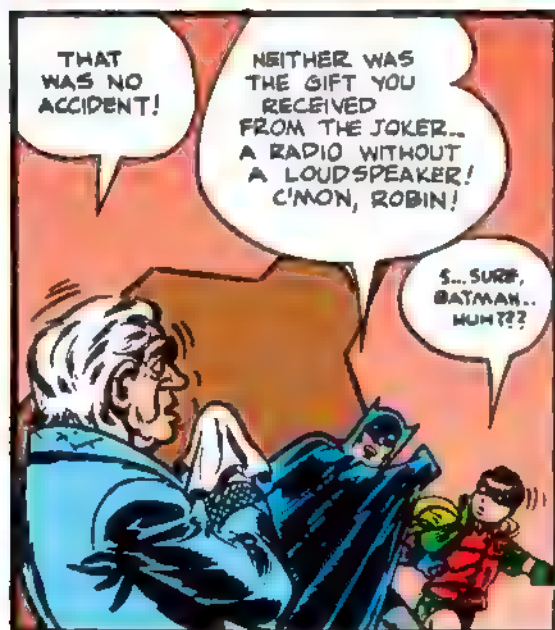
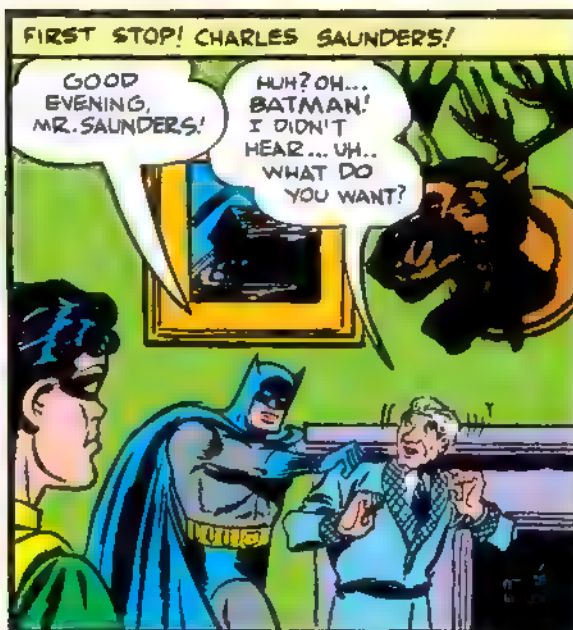
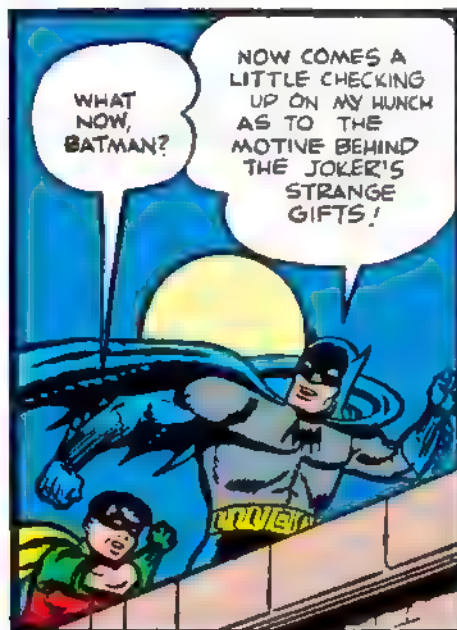
OKAY! YOU'RE THE BOSS! BUT WHAT'S THE GAG?

THE OLDEST ONE OF ALL TIME... AND I'VE FALLEN FOR IT!



BEHOLD! OUR "BLOWOUT!" IT WAS JUST A FLASH BULB, DROPPED BY THE JOKER!



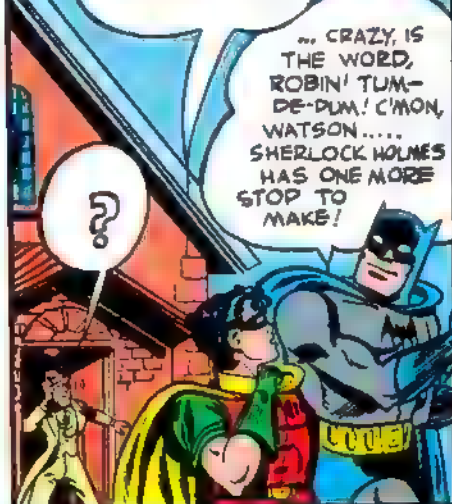


SUDDENLY, BATMAN SHINES THE BEAM DIRECTLY INTO MORSE'S LEFT EYE...



GIVES A BRIGHT LIGHT, DOESN'T IT? YES, INDEEDY!

BATMAN! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU? YOU'RE ACTING...

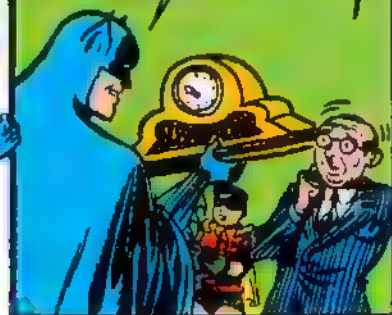


... CRAZY, IS THE WORD, ROBIN! TUM-DE-DUM! C'MON, WATSON..... SHERLOCK HOLMES HAS ONE MORE STOP TO MAKE!

LAST STOP! JIM BROWN!

SO THIS IS THE CLOCK, WITHOUT AN HOUR HAND! WELL, WELL! MUST BE AWKWARD IF YOU WANT THE RIGHT TIME, EH?

YES, IT IS AW HUH?!!



OOPS! SORRY! BUTTERFINGERS, THAT'S ME!

THAT'S ALL RIGHT! IT DIDN'T HURT MY HAND!



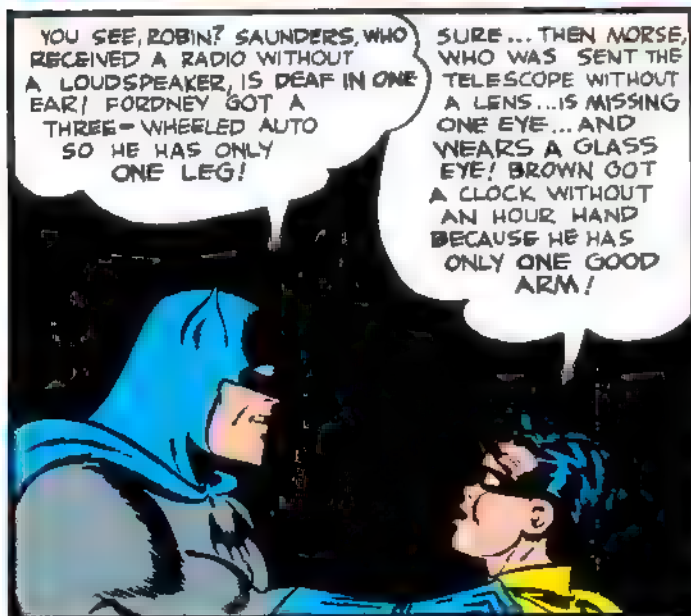
I DON'T IMAGINE IT COULD... SINCE THAT'S AN ARTIFICIAL ARM!

WHA...?



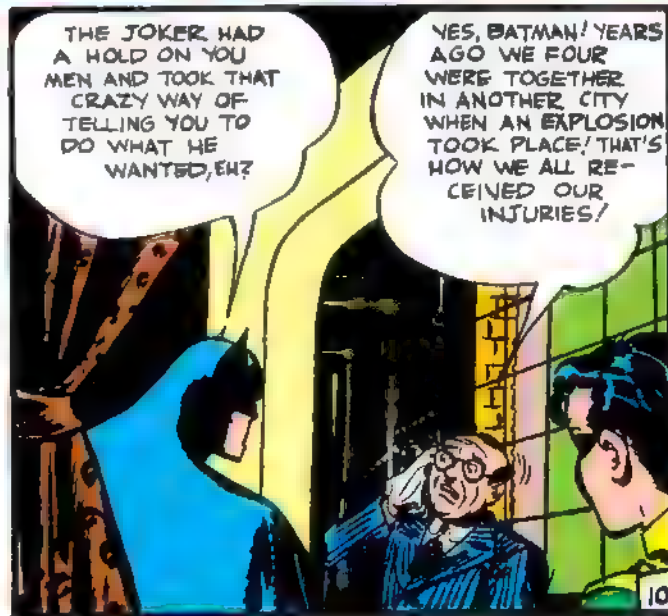
YOU SEE, ROBIN? SAUNDERS, WHO RECEIVED A RADIO WITHOUT A LOUDSPEAKER, IS DEAF IN ONE EAR! FORDNEY GOT A THREE-WHEELED AUTO SO HE HAS ONLY ONE LEG!

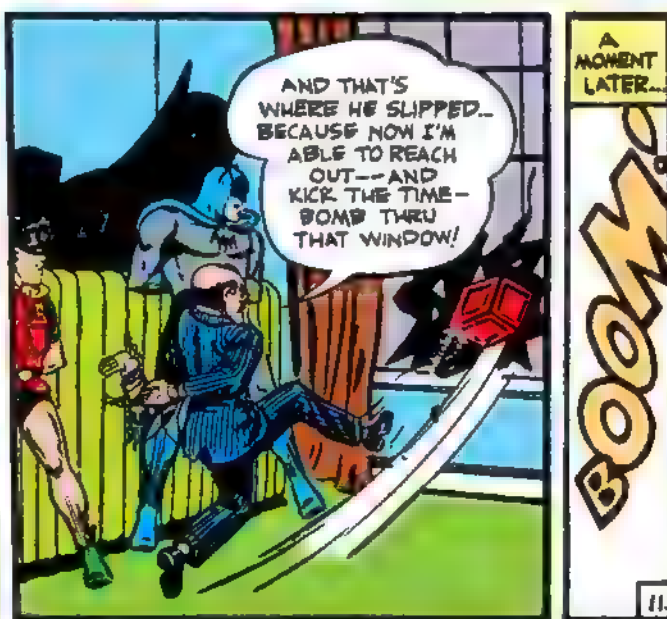
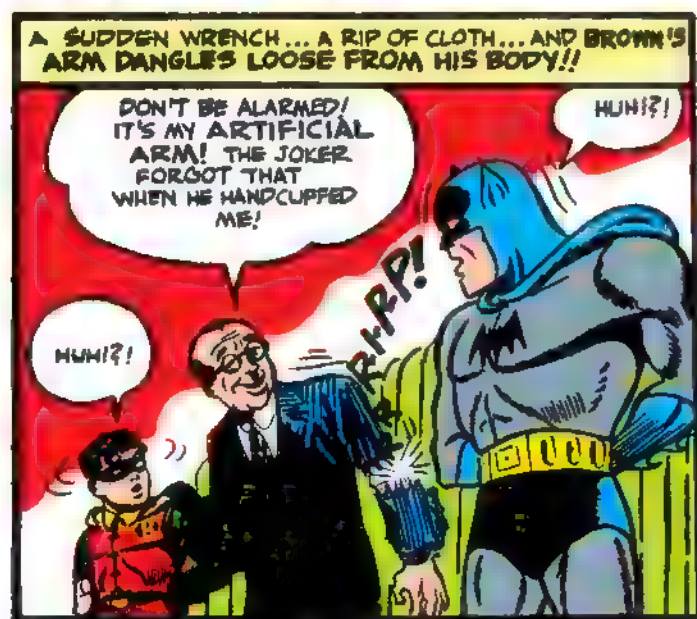
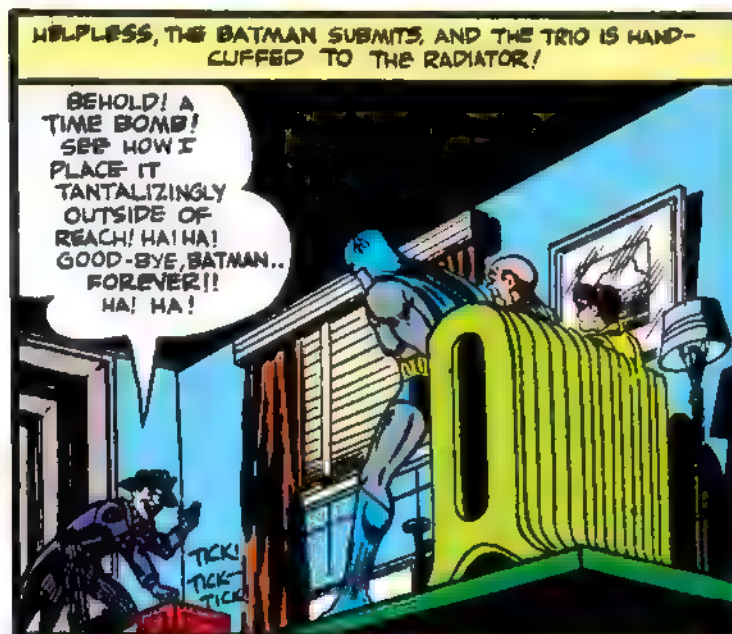
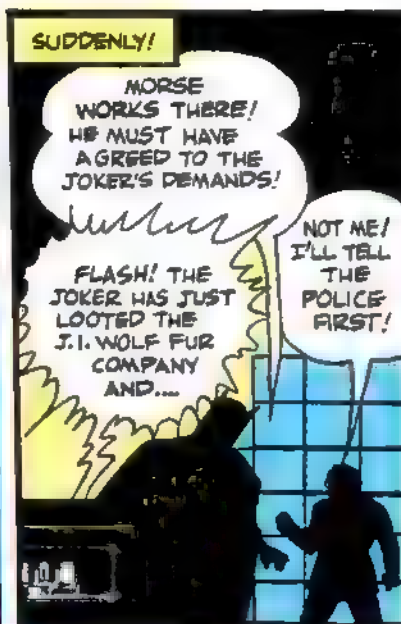
SURE... THEN MORSE, WHO WAS SENT THE TELESCOPE WITHOUT A LENS... IS MISSING ONE EYE... AND WEARS A GLASS EYE! BROWN GOT A CLOCK WITHOUT AN HOUR HAND BECAUSE HE HAS ONLY ONE GOOD ARM!

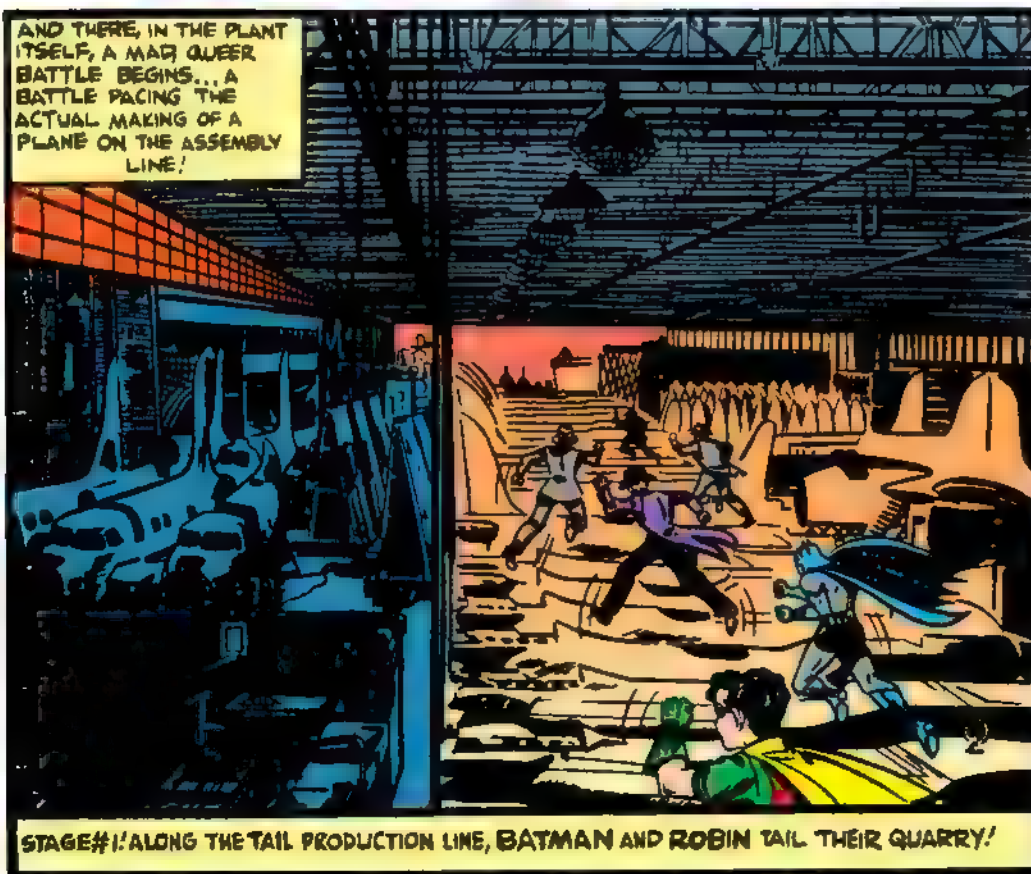
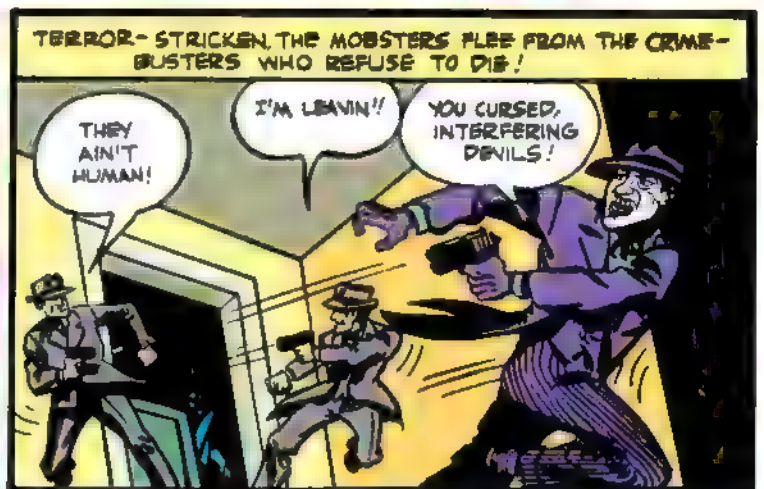
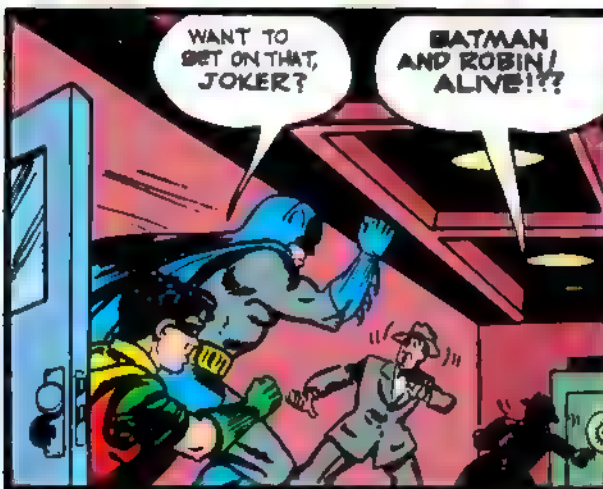
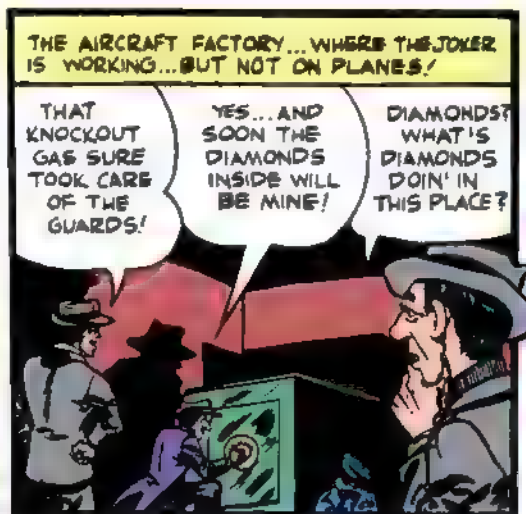
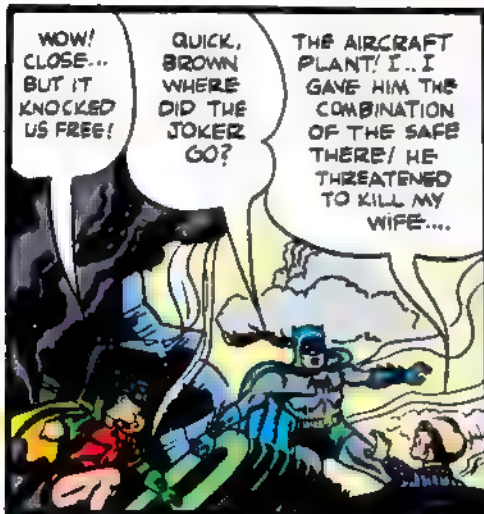


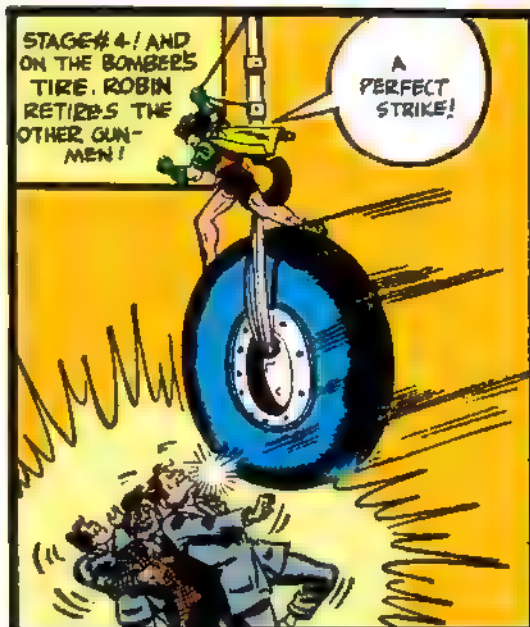
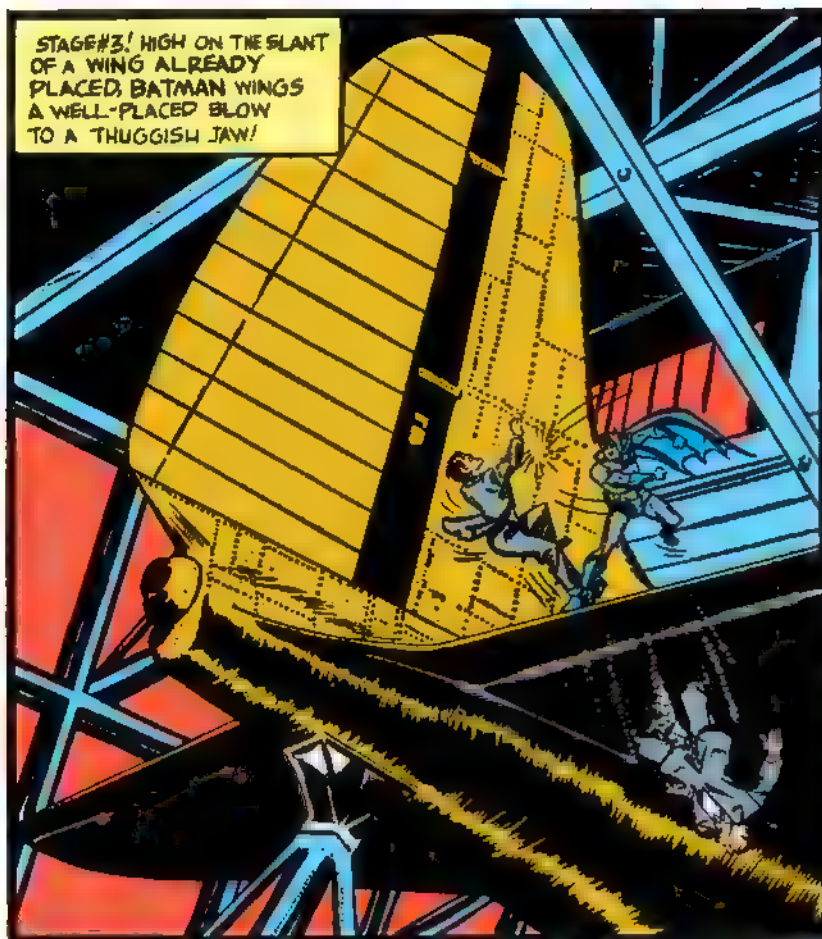
THE JOKER HAD A HOLD ON YOU MEN AND TOOK THAT CRAZY WAY OF TELLING YOU TO DO WHAT HE WANTED, EH?

YES, BATMAN! YEARS AGO WE FOUR WERE TOGETHER IN ANOTHER CITY WHEN AN EXPLOSION TOOK PLACE! THAT'S HOW WE ALL RECEIVED OUR INJURIES!

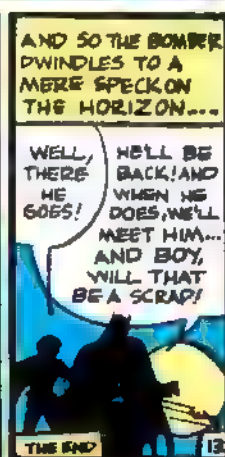
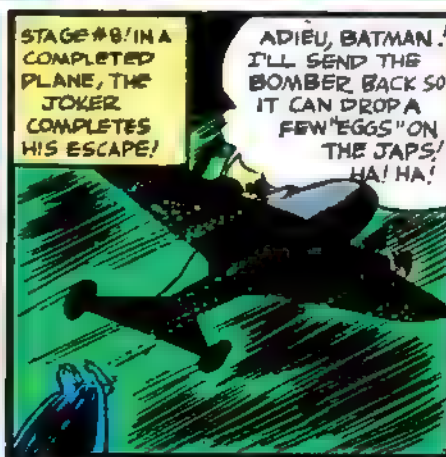
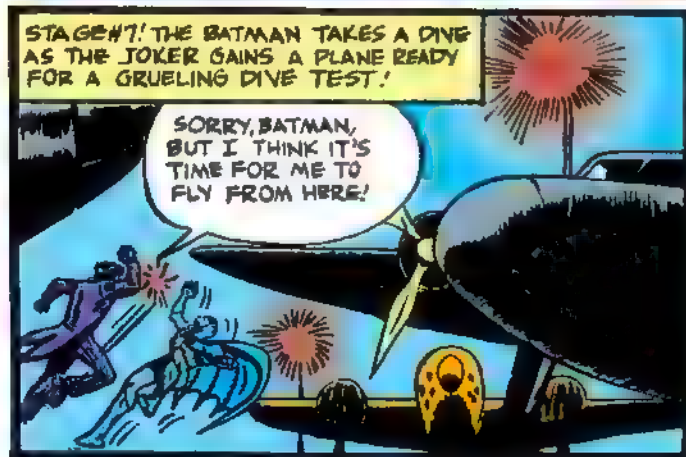
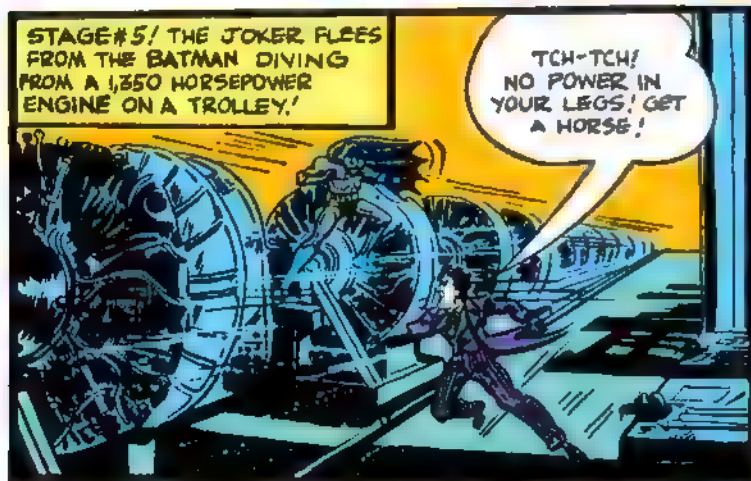


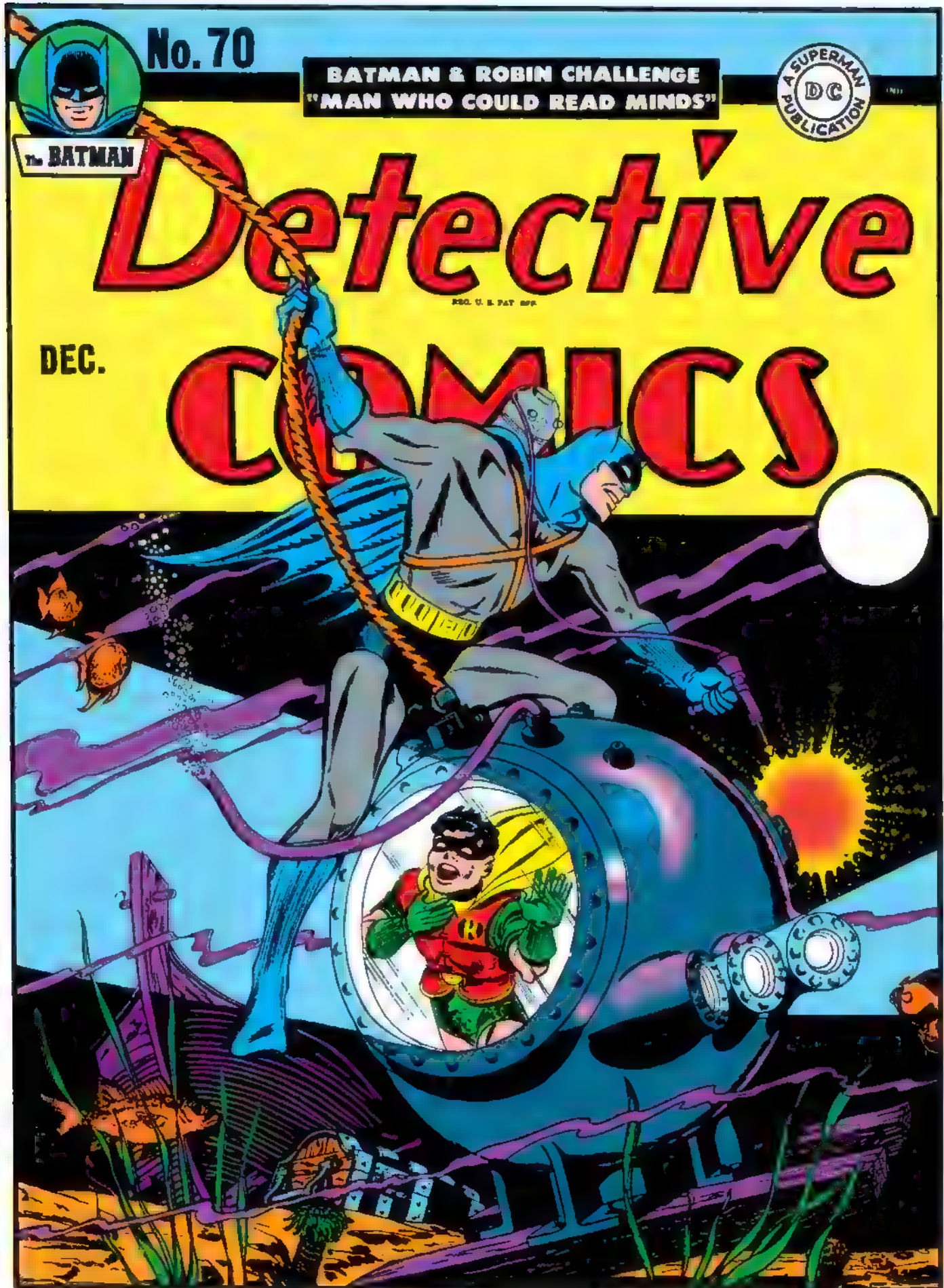






THE MAD CHASE LEADS OUTSIDE INTO THE YARD OF THE HUGE PLANT. AS THE JOKER CLAMBERS TO A PROPELLERLESS BOMBER, THE BATMAN PROPELS HIMSELF THRU THE AIR!





BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

HAVE YOU EVER WISHED THAT YOU COULD READ MINDS... GUESS THE INNERMOST SECRETS OF YOUR FELLOW MAN? IMAGINE WHAT YOU COULD DO IF YOU HAD THE POWER! WHAT KNOWLEDGE YOU COULD POSSESS!

THIS IS THE STORY OF A MORTAL WHO WRESTED FROM FATE THIS UNCANNY GIFT FOR READING MINDS... AND USES IT FOR DARK DEEDS. ARMED WITH THIS MIRACULOUS POWER, HE BECOMES THE GREATEST Foe EVER TO CHALLENGE THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND ROBIN.

FOR HERE IS A MAN WHO CAN GUESS HIS OPPONENTS' EVERY PLAN, ANTICIPATE EVERY MOVE... STRIKE AS FAST AS THEY CAN THINK! HE IS...

"THE MAN WHO COULD READ MINDS!"



By

BOB KANE

ON THE STAGE OF THE GOTHAM CITY THEATRE...

AND NOW, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, TONIGHT'S STAR PERFORMER-- CARLO, THE MAN WHO CAN READ MINDS!

AMONG THE AUDIENCE ARE PLAYBOY BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

CARLO IS BLINDFOLDED, BUT NO SECRETS CAN BE KEPT FROM HIS ALL-SEEING MIND! NOW, IF SOMEBODY WILL KINDLY LEND ME AN OBJECT...

HERE--I BET HE CAN'T GUESS THIS!

WHAT AM I HOLDING? GET IT RIGHT, CARLO!

A PEN!

GOSH!

AGAIN AND AGAIN, THE MIND-READER DEMONSTRATES HIS AMAZING POWERS!

AND WHAT OBJECT HAVE I THIS TIME, CARLO?

A WATCH!

GEE, BRUCE, THAT CARLO IS PRETTY GOOD! I WISH I COULD READ MINDS!

YOU CAN-- THE SAME WAY HE DOES! HE'S A FAKE, DICK!

THERE ARE CUE WORDS IN THAT ACT! THE STOOGES INFORMS CARLO IT'S A WATCH BY USING THE WORD "TIME" IN A SENTENCE! WITH A PEN, HE SAYS, "GET IT RIGHT!" WRITE!

WHY, THE CHEAP CROOK!

HIS ACT OVER, THE PHONEY MIND READER LEAVES THE THEATRE IN A HIGH-POWERED CAR...

MY ACT WENT OVER BIG TONIGHT! BOY, IF ONLY I COULD READ MINDS!

THEN A HEART-CONSTRUCTING MOMENT AS CARLO'S CAR SKIDS ALONG THE WET, SLIPPERY PAVEMENT...

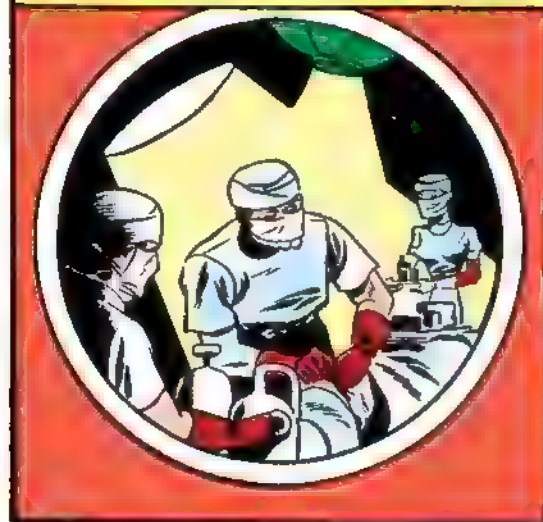
IT'S OUT OF CONTROL! I'M GOING TO--

...AND CRASHES FULL-TILT INTO A BILLBOARD IRONICALLY ANNOUNCING HIS ACT!

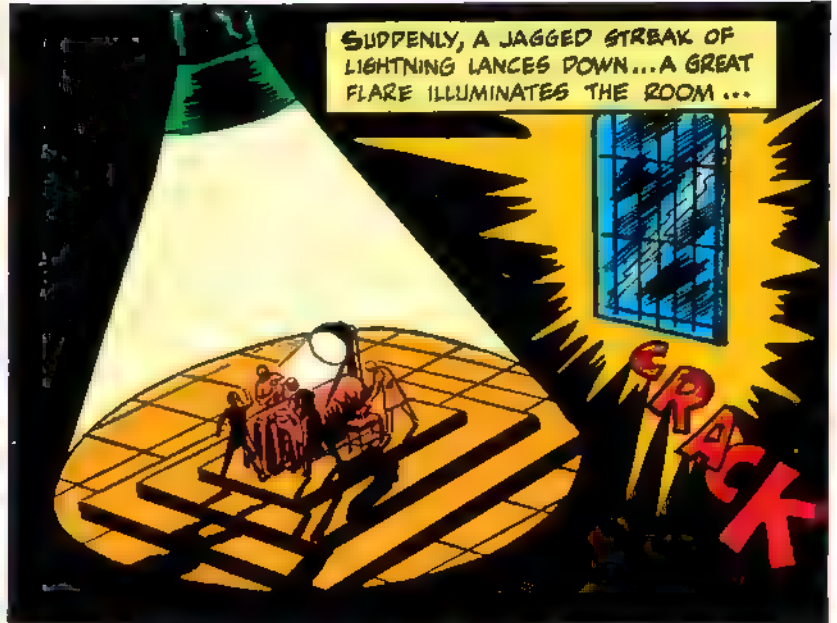
CRASH!

Carlo THE MAN WHO CAN READ MINDS

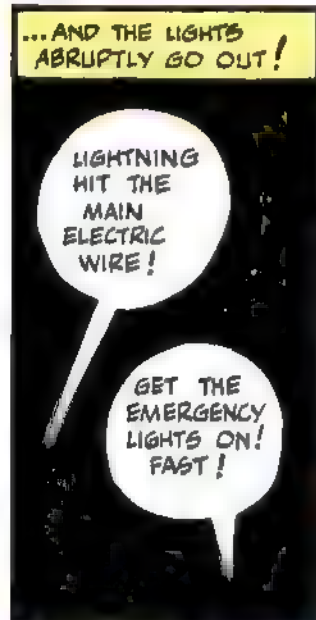
LATER, AT A NEARBY HOSPITAL, A DELICATE OPERATION IS PERFORMED ON CARLO'S BRAIN--LIFE OR DEATH IN THE BALANCE!



SUDDENLY, A JAGGED STREAK OF LIGHTNING LANCES DOWN...A GREAT FLARE ILLUMINATES THE ROOM...



...AND THE LIGHTS ABRUPTLY GO OUT!



MOMENTS LATER...

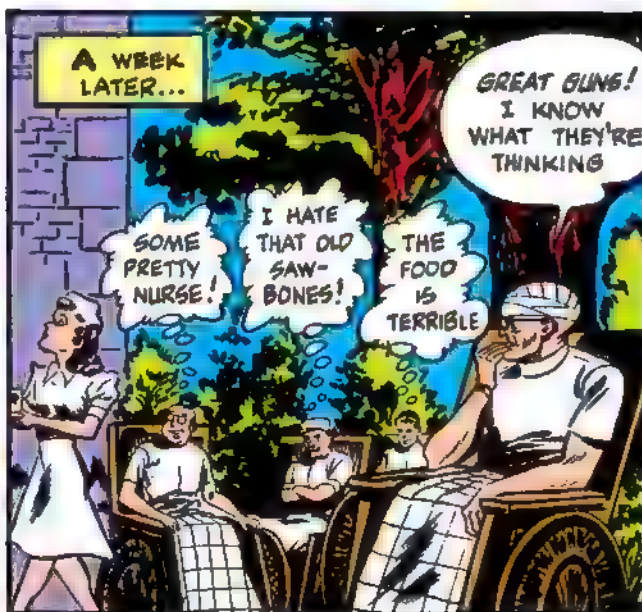
I HOPE MY SCALPEL DIDN'T SLIP WHEN THOSE LIGHTS WENT OUT!



BUT WILL HE? FOR FATE'S TRICKY FINGERS HAVE SLYLY GUIDED THE SURGEON'S SCALPEL DURING THAT MOMENTARY BLACKOUT!



A WEEK LATER...



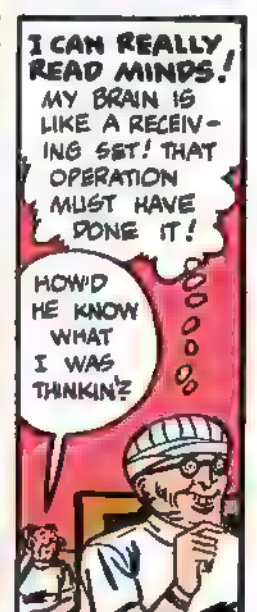
WHAT A FUNNY FACE THIS FELLOW NEXT TO ME, HAS!

DID YOU EVER LOOK AT YOURSELF IN THE MIRROR, SMART GUY?



I CAN REALLY READ MINDS! MY BRAIN IS LIKE A RECEIVING SET! THAT OPERATION MUST HAVE DONE IT!

HOW'D HE KNOW WHAT I WAS THINKIN'?



OUT OF THE HOSPITAL, CARLO PUTS HIS MIRACULOUS GIFT TO A PROFITABLE TEST!

YOU WIN AGAIN, CARLO! NEVER SAW SUCH LUCK!

HA, HA! IF ONLY THEY KNEW I COULD READ THEIR MINDS AND TELL WHAT CARDS THEY HELD!

ON RADIO'S ACE QUIZ PROGRAM...

THE BIG JACKPOT TO THE LUCKY GENTLEMAN WHO ANSWERED ALL THE QUESTIONS CORRECTLY!

WHAT A LINC! THE ANNOUNCER KNEW THE ANSWERS. I MERELY READ HIS MIND!

ACE QUIZ

MADE SIDDY BY SUCCESS, CARLO FALLS PREY TO GREED!

I'M THROUGH WITH THIS SMALL-TIME STUFF! I CAN MAKE BIG MONEY WITH MY POWERS. I CAN DO ANYTHING! **ANYTHING!**

DAYS LATER...

HE SEEMS TO ANTICIPATE PEOPLE'S MOVEMENTS!

I THINK IT'S TIME FOR A COUPLE OF FELLOWS WE KNOW TO DO SOME PROWLING, DICK!

ANOTHER MYSTERIOUS PERFECT CRIMINAL

THAT NIGHT, TWO MANTLED SHAPES FLIT OVER SKY-HIGH ROOFTOPS AGAINST A BACKGROUND OF INKY NIGHT. BATMAN AND ROBIN THE BOY WONDER!

ALL QUIET SO FAR!

PATIENCE, M'LAD!

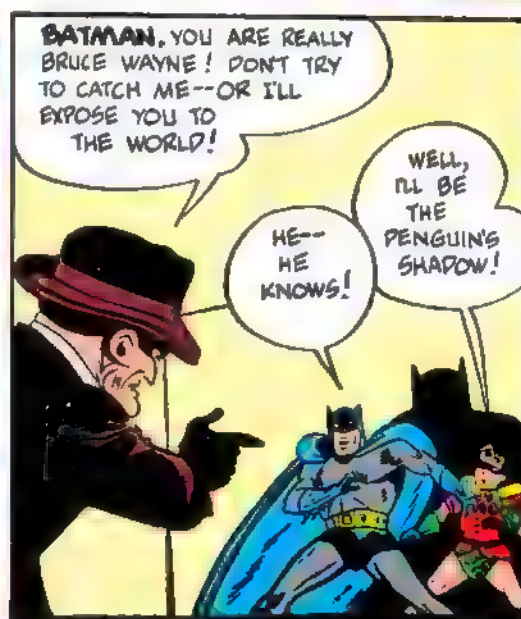
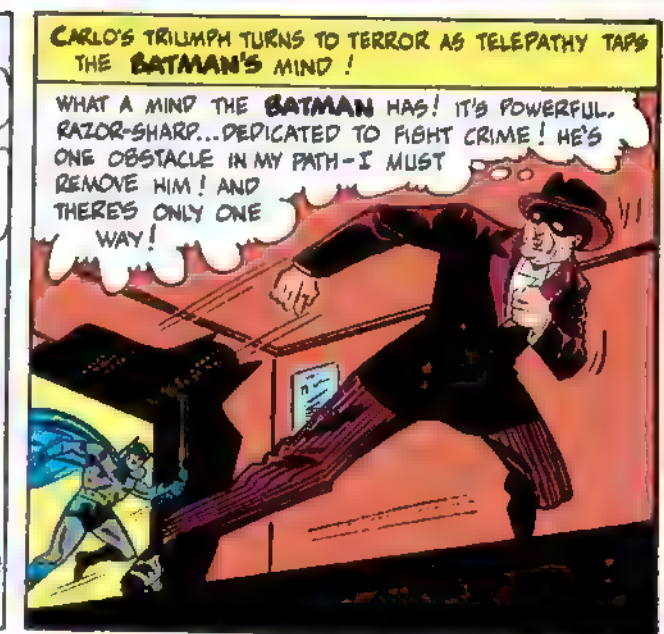
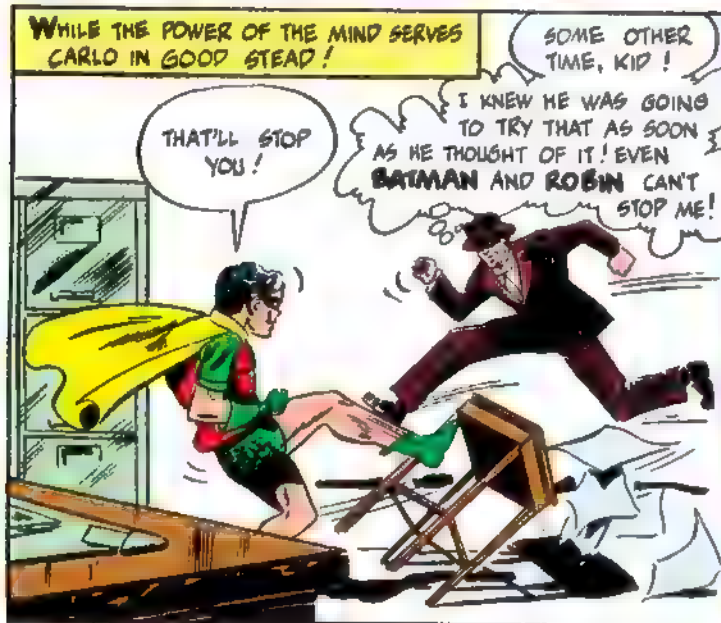
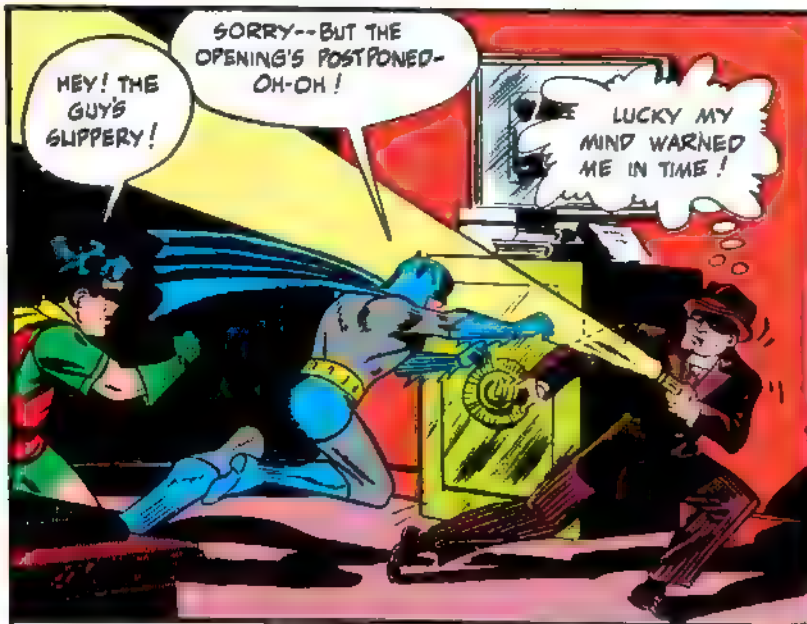
LOOK--THAT PINPOINT OF LIGHT FROM THAT OFFICE BUILDING! MIGHT BE A TENANT OR--

--OR A THIEF! LET'S GO!

SH-H! LET'S TAKE HIM BY SURPRISE!

NOTHING TO THIS! I READ THE OWNER'S MIND FOR THE COMBINATION OF THE SAFE--NOW ALL I HAVE TO DO IS OPEN IT!

YOU GUESSED IT. IT'S OUR FRIEND, CARLO!

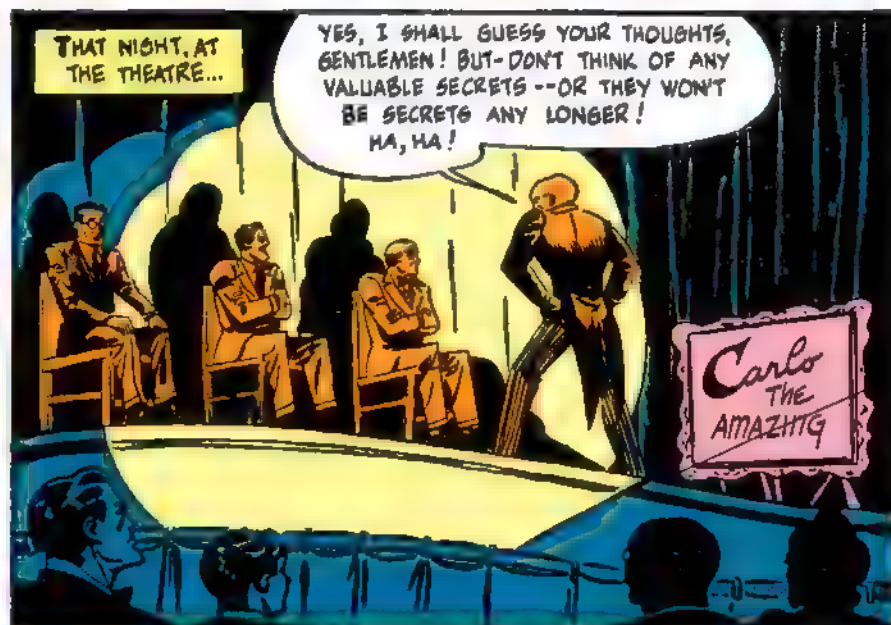


THE THREAT OF EXPOSURE HANGING OVER THEM LIKE THE SWORD OF DAMOCLES, TWO GLOOMY FIGURES BROOD AT HOME ...



SAY, REMEMBER CARLO, THE MIND READER? HE'S NOW DOING HIS ACT SOLO! HOW DOES HE WORK IT ALONE?

CARLO! THAT'S THE ANSWER! IT WAS HIS VOICE! SOMEHOW HE'S GAINED THE POWER TO READ MINDS! THAT'S HOW HE KNEW MY IDENTITY!



THAT NIGHT, AT THE THEATRE...

YES, I SHALL GUESS YOUR THOUGHTS, GENTLEMEN! BUT-DON'T THINK OF ANY VALUABLE SECRETS --OR THEY WON'T BE SECRETS ANY LONGER! HA, HA!



THE CLEVER SCOUNDREL! THEY DO THINK OF THEIR VALUABLE SECRETS, REGARDLESS! THEN HE ROBS THEM!

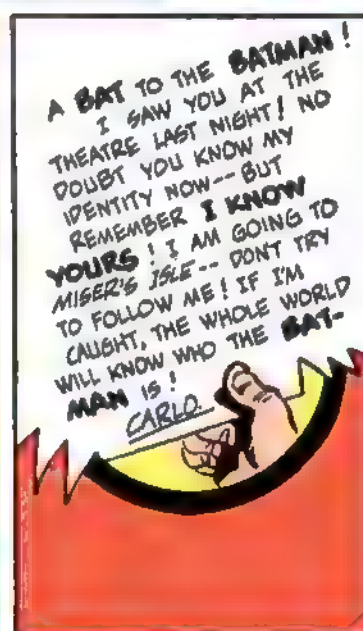
BUT WE HAVE NOTHING DEFINITE ON HIM YET-- AND HE HAS PLENTY ON US!



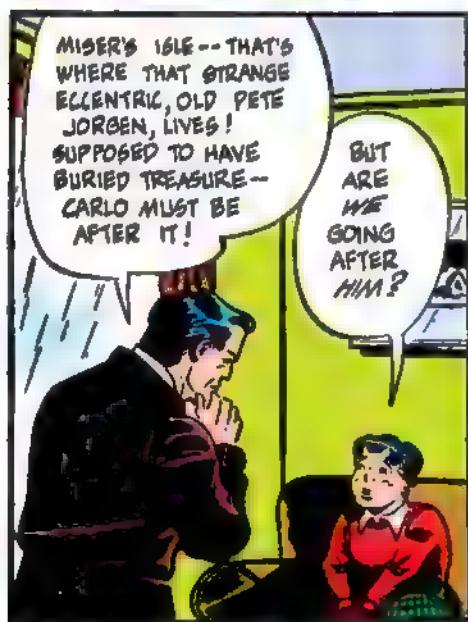
NEXT MORNING, A PACKAGE ARRIVES AT THE WAYNE HOME, AND INSIDE IS ...

A BAT! CARLO MUST HAVE SENT IT AS A WARNING!

THERE'S A CARD ENCLOSED! LOOK!

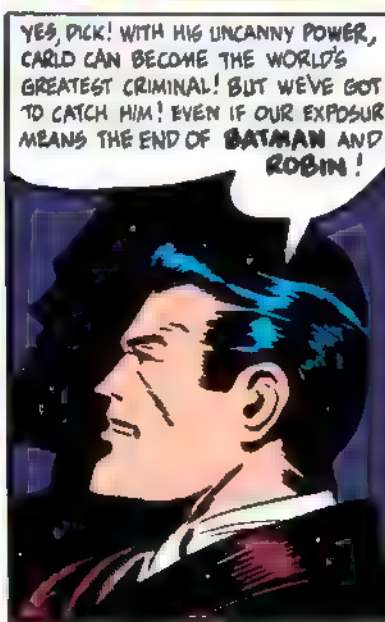


A BAT TO THE BATMAN! I SAW YOU AT THE THEATRE LAST NIGHT! NO DOUBT YOU KNOW MY IDENTITY NOW-- BUT REMEMBER I KNOW YOURS! I AM GOING TO FOLLOW ME! IF I'M CAUGHT, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL KNOW WHO THE BAT-MAN IS! CARLO

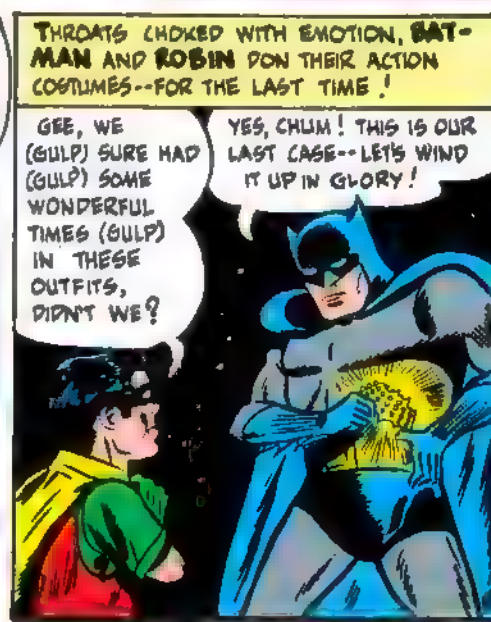


MISER'S ISLE -- THAT'S WHERE THAT STRANGE ECCENTRIC, OLD PETE JORGEN, LIVES! SUPPOSED TO HAVE BURIED TREASURE-- CARLO MUST BE AFTER IT!

BUT ARE WE GOING AFTER HIM?



YES, DICK! WITH HIS UNCANNY POWER, CARLO CAN BECOME THE WORLD'S GREATEST CRIMINAL! BUT WE'VE GOT TO CATCH HIM! EVEN IF OUR EXPOSURE MEANS THE END OF BATMAN AND ROBIN!



THROATS CHOKED WITH EMOTION, BAT-MAN AND ROBIN DON THEIR ACTION COSTUMES--FOR THE LAST TIME!

GEE, WE (GULP) SURE HAD (GULP) SOME WONDERFUL TIMES (GULP) IN THESE OUTFITS, DIDN'T WE?

YES, CHUM! THIS IS OUR LAST CASE--LET'S WIND IT UP IN GLORY!

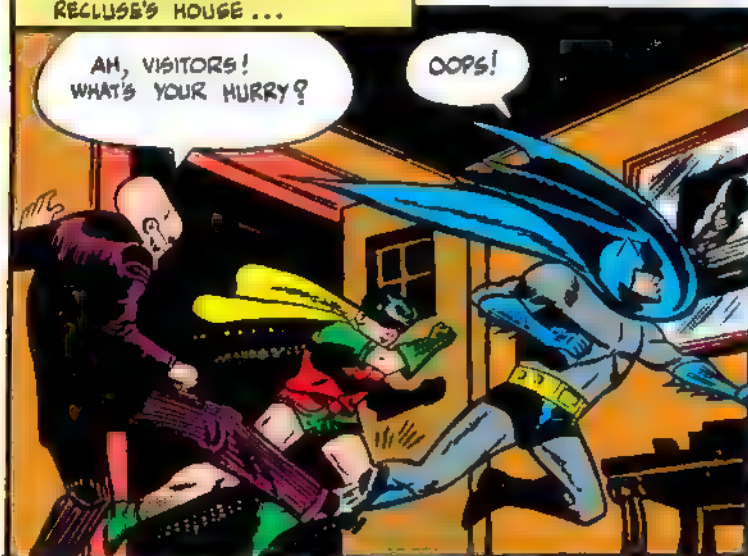
MOMENTS LATER, AN EERIE CRAFT
WINGS ITS WAY THRU THE SKIES--
THE SUPER-POWERFUL BATPLANE!



AND SOON, HUNDREDS OF MILES AWAY,
IT HOVERS OVER A TINY ISLAND...

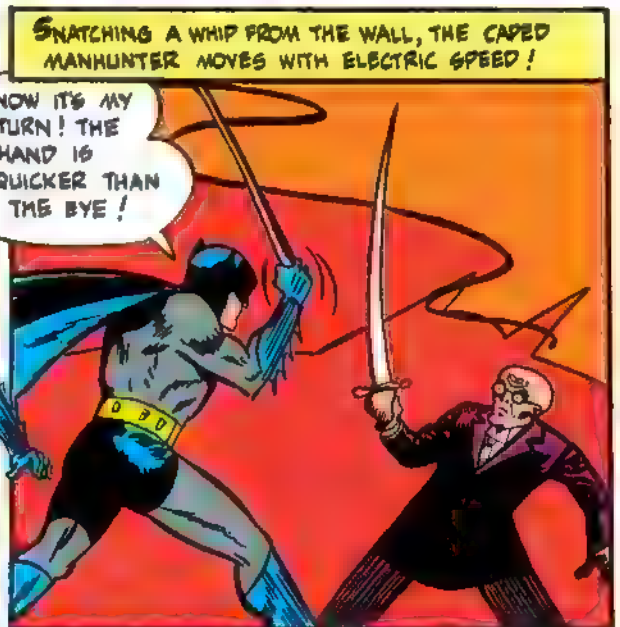


LANDING, THE POWERHOUSE PAIR
RACES ACROSS THE SANDY STRETCH
AND BURSTS RECKLESSLY INTO THE
RECLUSE'S HOUSE...



BUT THE BOY WONDER'S HAND FLASHES OUT SWIFTLY,
WITH THE SPEED OF A KING COBRA!





LATER, ON BOARD OLD PETE'S SHIP IN THE LAGOON...

OLD PETE USES THIS BATHYSPHERE TO LOOK FOR BURIED TREASURE IN SUNKEN SHIPS! SEE WHAT YOU CAN FIND--

--IF YOU EVER GET THE CHANCE! I'VE SHUT OFF THE OXYGEN VALVE! IN A LITTLE WHILE YOU'LL STRANGLE TO DEATH! HO, HO!

I'VE DONE WHAT NO OTHER CRIMINAL HAS BEEN ABLE TO DO! I'VE DISPOSED OF ROBIN! AND SOON THE BATMAN WILL DIE!

FOR, DOWN IN THE ROCKY DUNGEON ROOM INTO WHICH HE HAS BEEN THROWN, BATMAN, TOO, IS FACING DEATH!

GREAT SCOTT! THE WALLS ARE MOVING TOGETHER! I'LL BE CRUSHED!

SLOWLY, INEXORABLY, THE STONE WALLS ROLL NEARER AND NEARER-- GRIM JUGGERNAUTS OF DOOM!

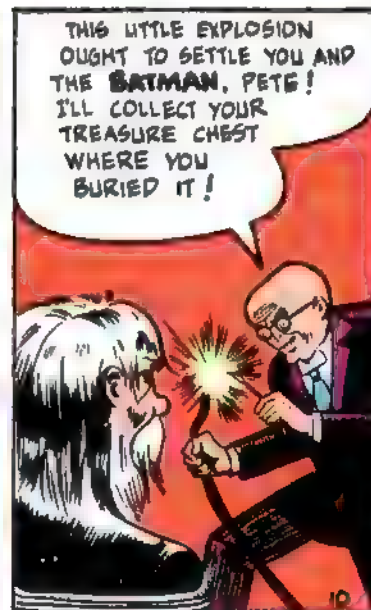
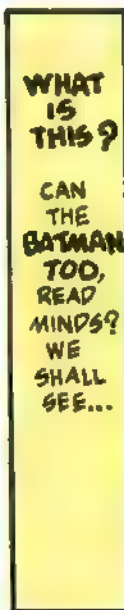
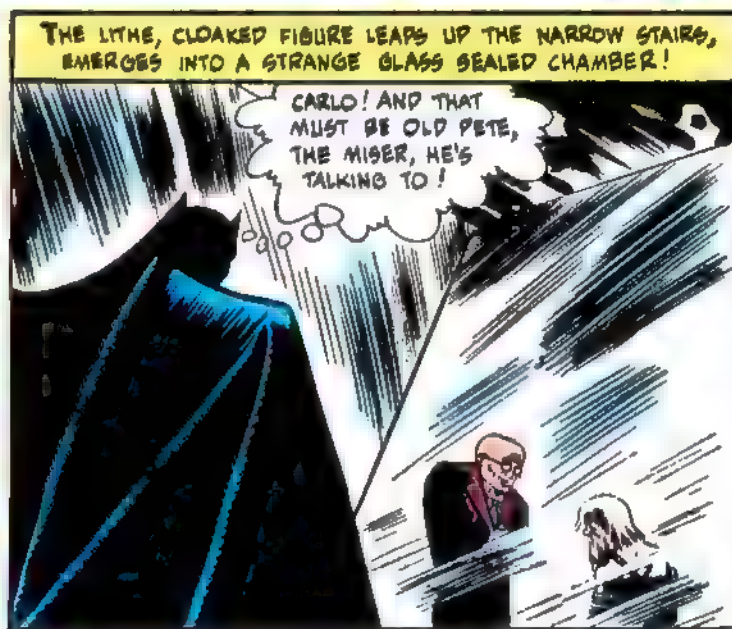
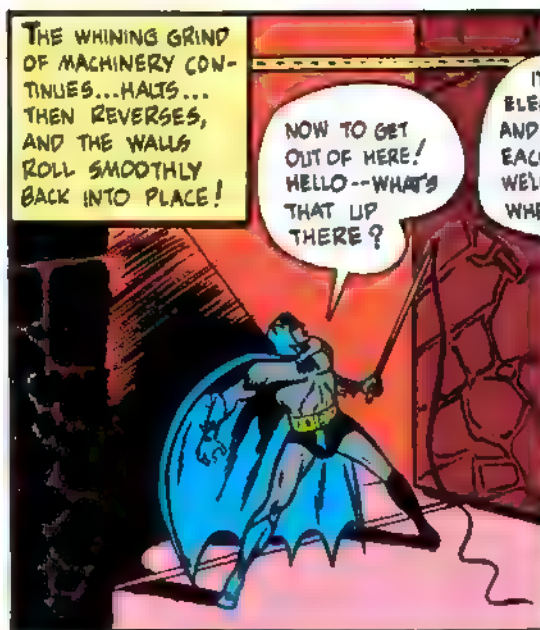
SUDDENLY, THE BATMAN LASHES UPWARD WITH HIS WHIP...

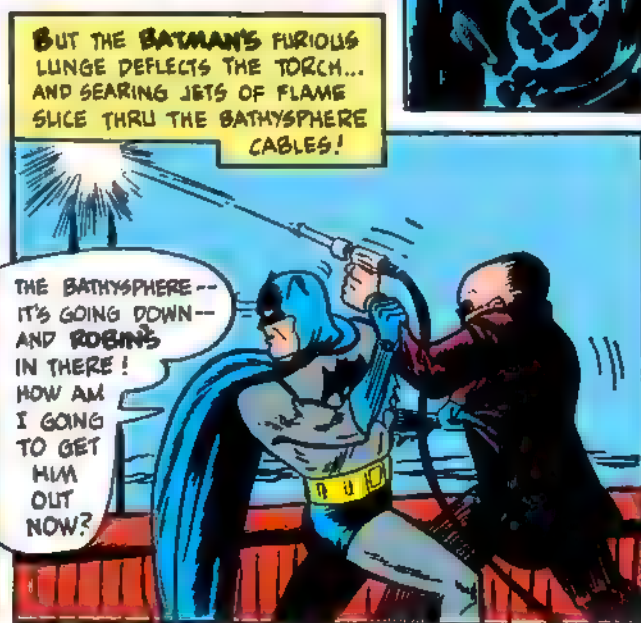
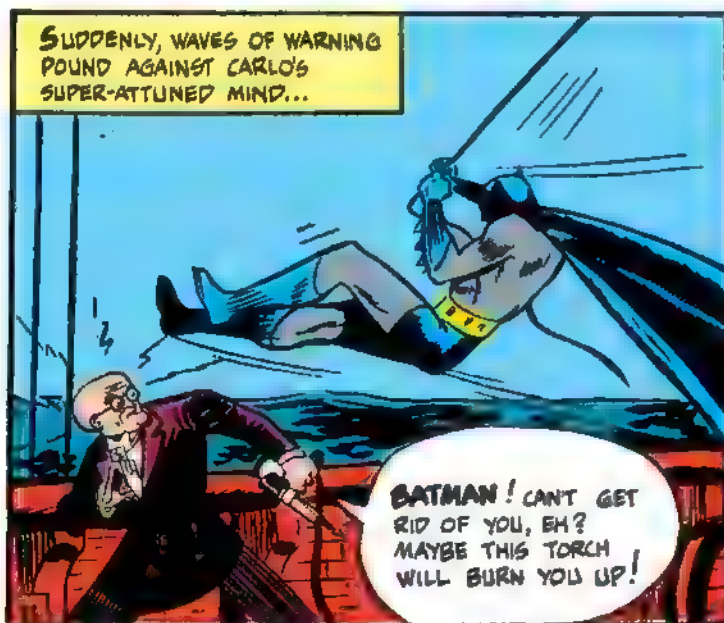
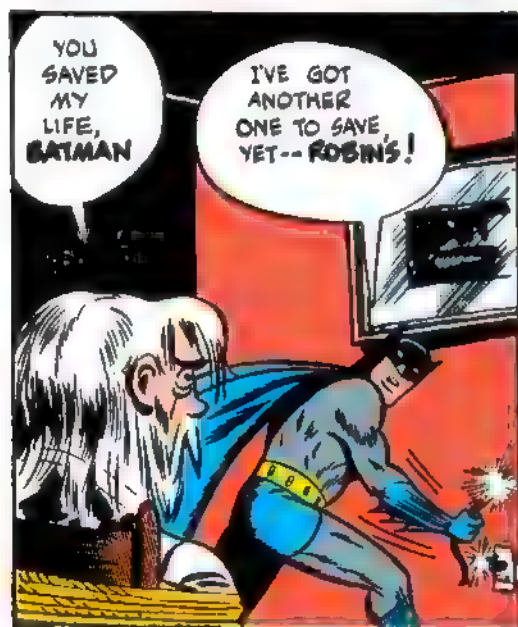
SWIFTLY, HE UPENDS THE LANTERN...

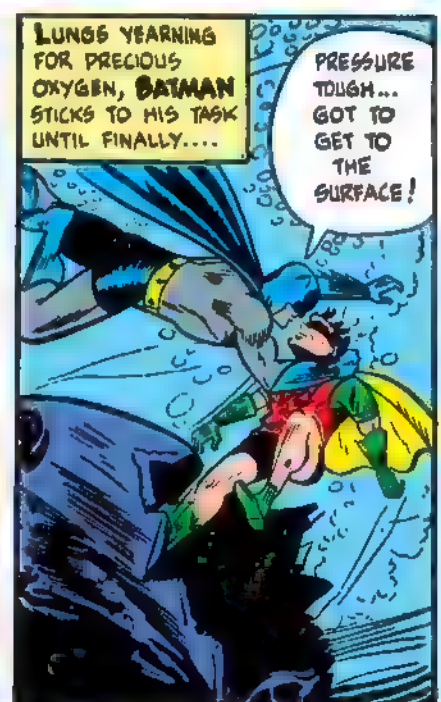
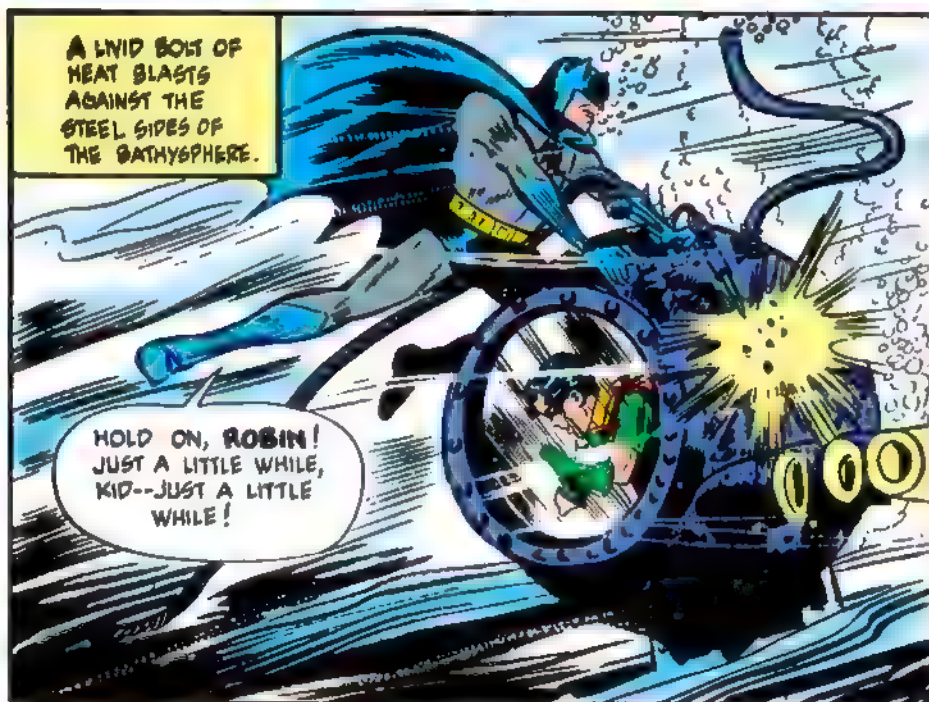
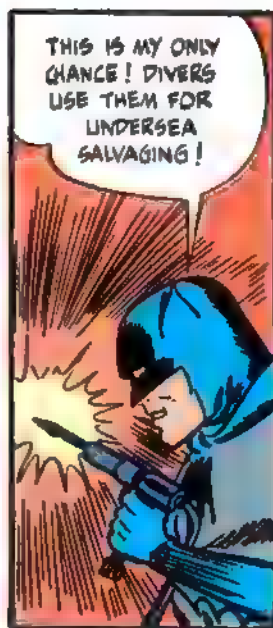
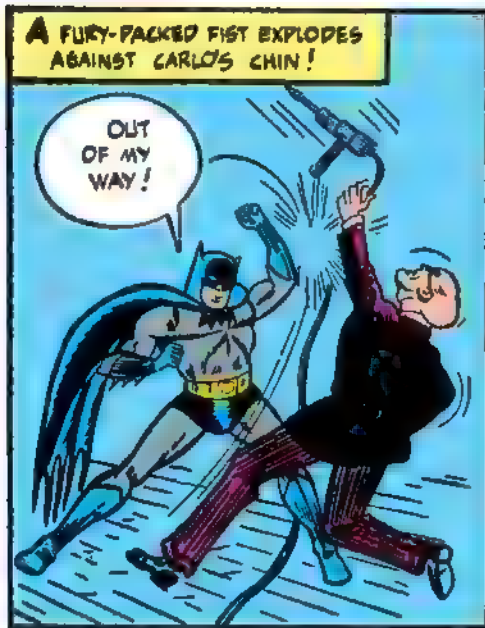
I'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING-- BUT, FAST!

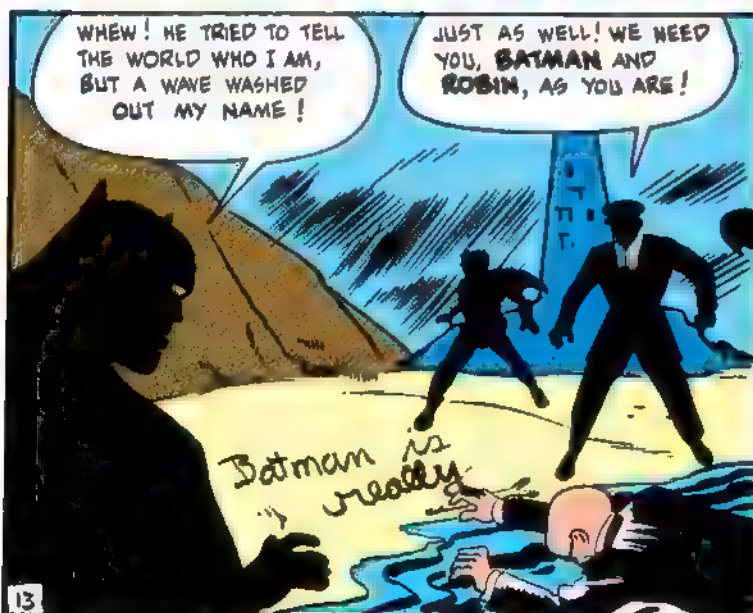
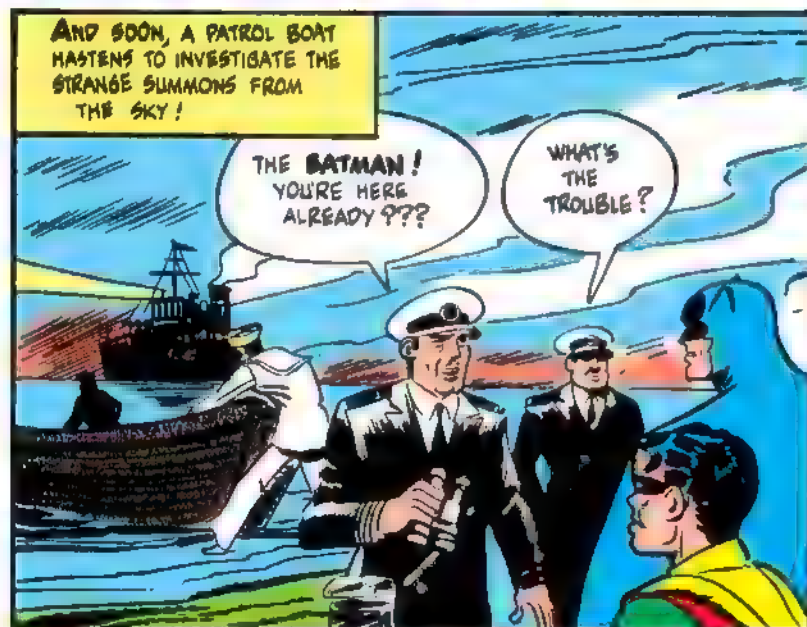
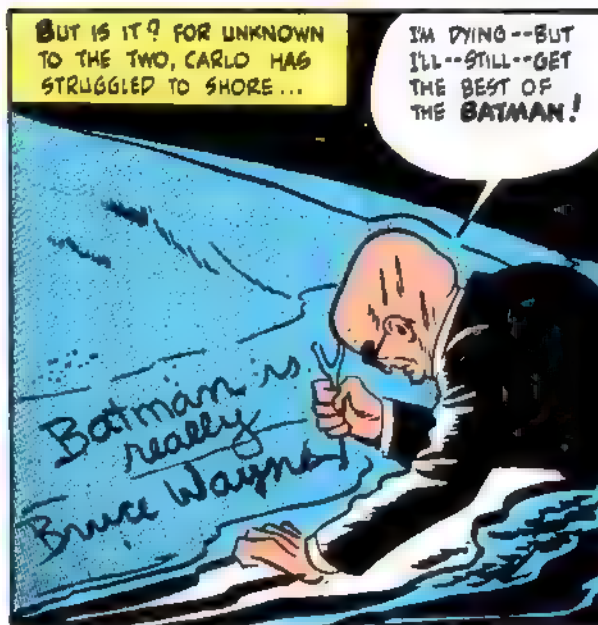
THIS'LL DO THE TRICK!

OIL! THE WHEELS CAN'T ROLL ON OIL! NO FRICTION!







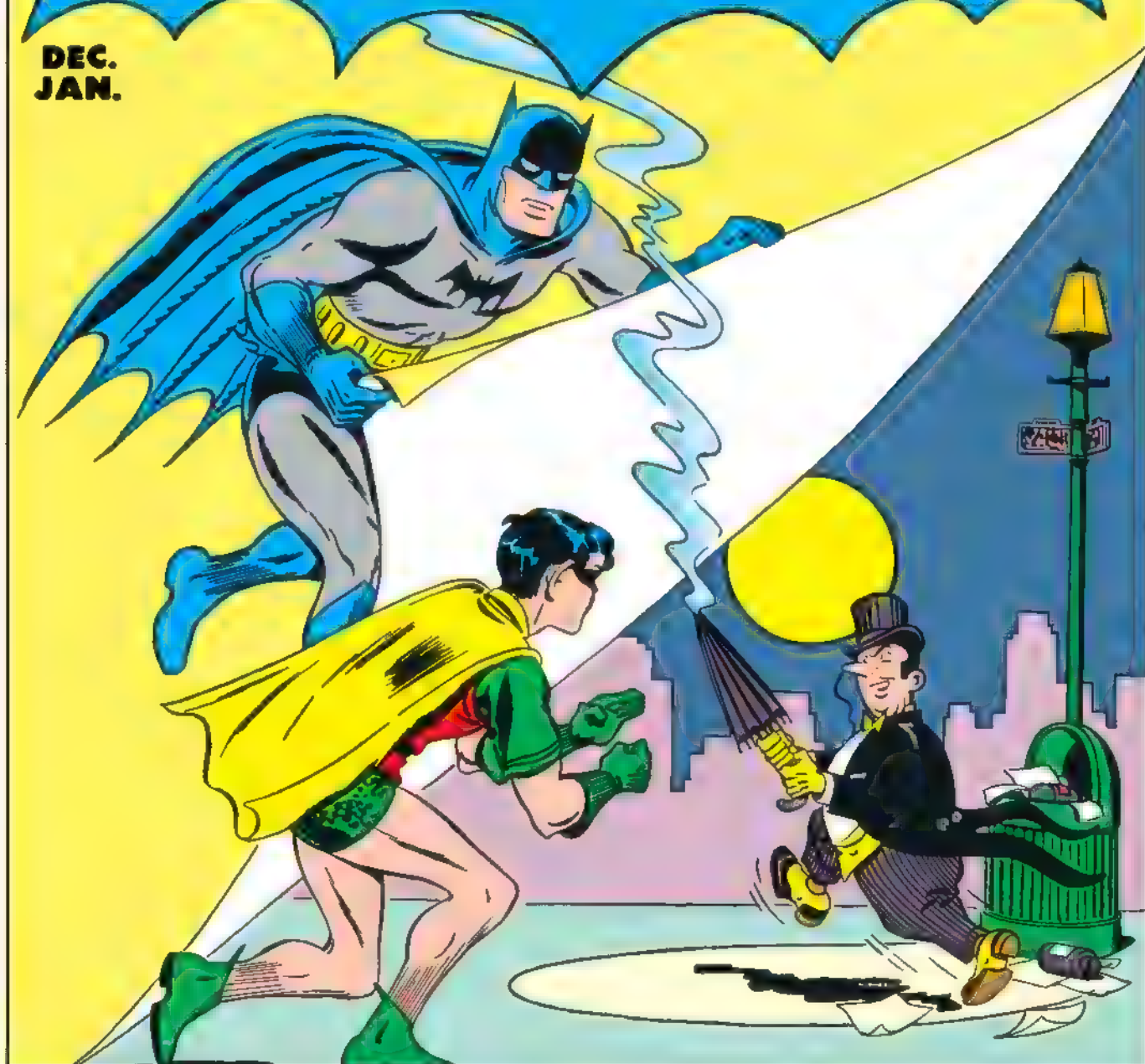


No. 14



BATMAN

DEC.
JAN.



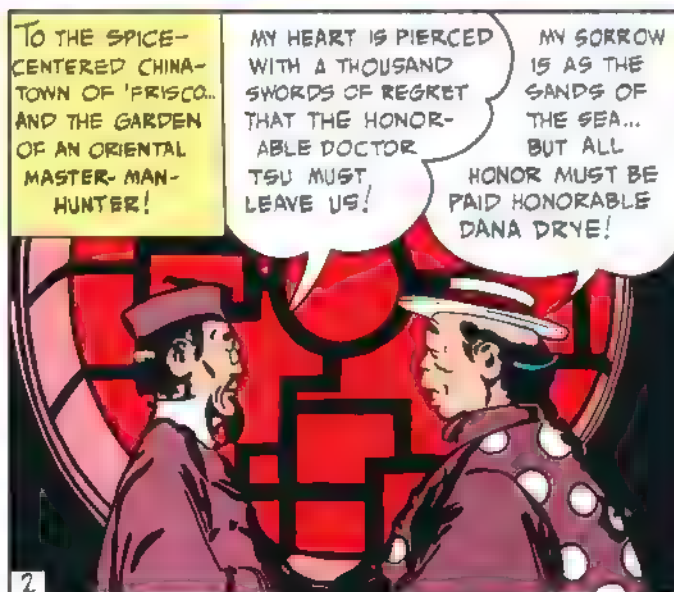
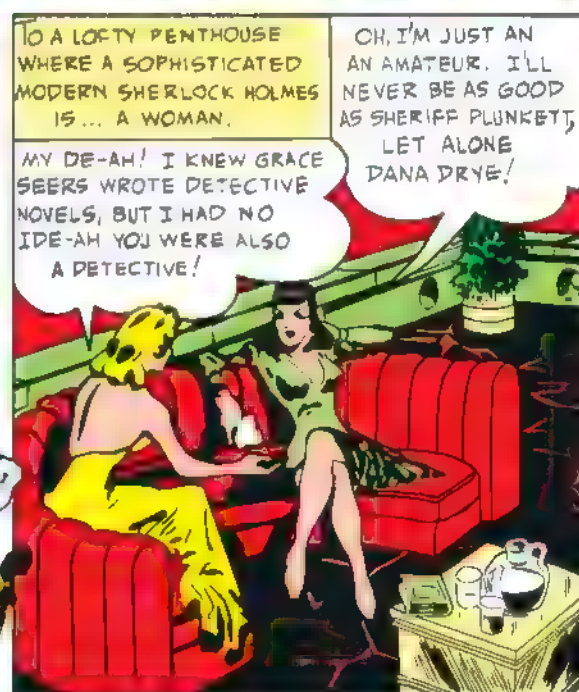
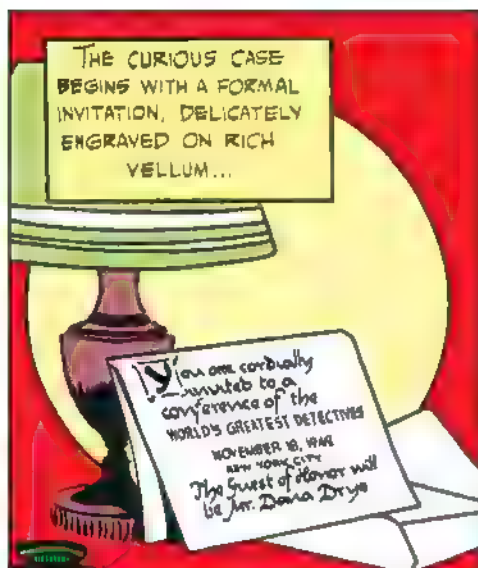
BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER

HE'S AN ORDINARY HUMAN BEING, THE BATMAN. SURE... HE'S A STUNT MAN... AN ACROBAT... A SUPERB ATHLETE... A LION-HEARTED FIGHTER - AND A SLEUTH... ALL ROLLED INTO ONE. HE HAS TO BE! FOR HE HAS MORE THAN A MAN-SIZED JOB CUT OUT FOR HIM, AND ONLY TWO DYNAMITE FISTS AND AN INGENIOUS MIND FOR WEAPONS! AND LIKE EVERY HUMAN BEING, THE BATMAN CAN ALSO LOSE! YOU'VE READ OF HIS THOUSAND -AND-ONE TRIUMPHS OVER CRIME. THIS IS A STORY OF THE TIME THE BATMAN LOST... THE STORY OF A MAGNIFICENT FAILURE!

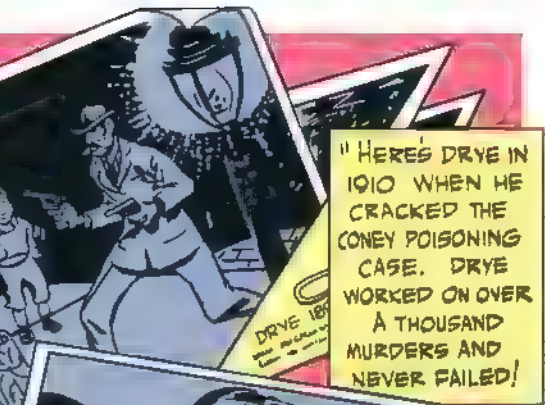


**The
CASE
BATMAN
FAILED
TO SOLVE
!!!**





"HERE'S A PICTURE OF DRYE IN 1880. SINGLE-HANDED HE ROUNDED UP THE NOTORIOUS GRAVES GANG!!!"



AND NOW YOU'LL GET A CHANCE TO SEE WHAT HE LOOKS LIKE TODAY!

I BET WE COULD LEARN A LOT FROM DRYE, BATMAN. I'D LIKE TO TALK TO HIM!

AND AS A BRILLIANT NOVEMBER SUN STREAKS THRU SPARKLING WINDOWS AT RIVER HOUSE, THE GREAT DETECTIVES OF THE WORLD ASSEMBLE...

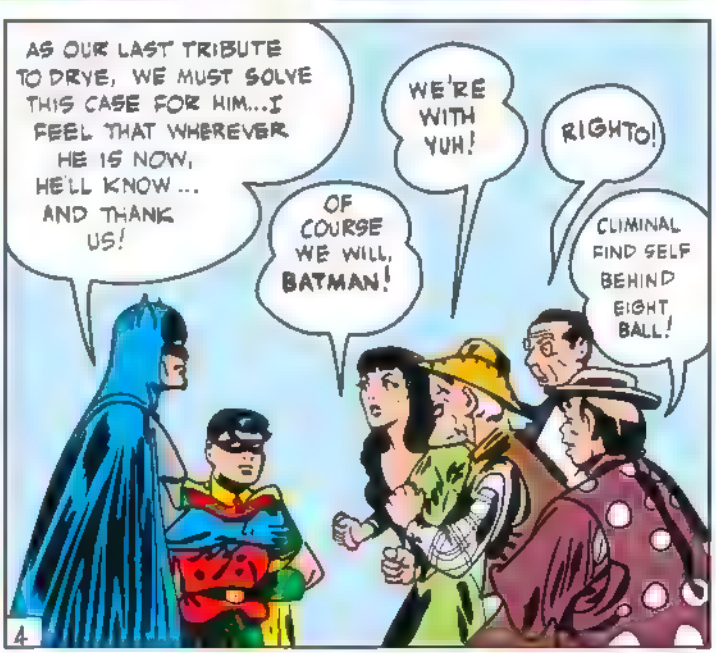
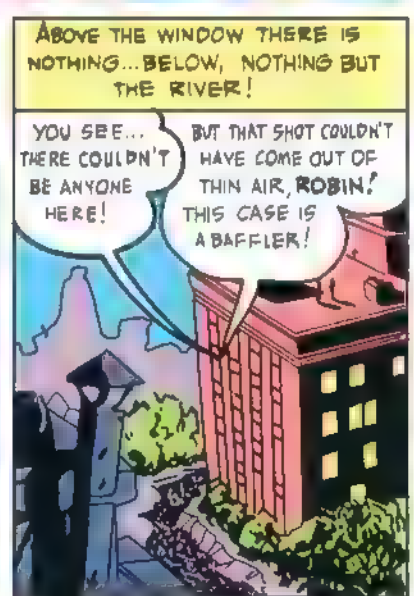
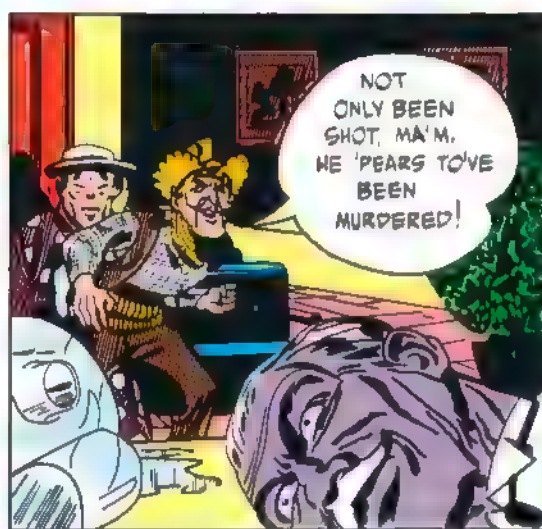
HONORABLE MISS SEERS HAS GREAT REPUTATION IN 'FRISCO!

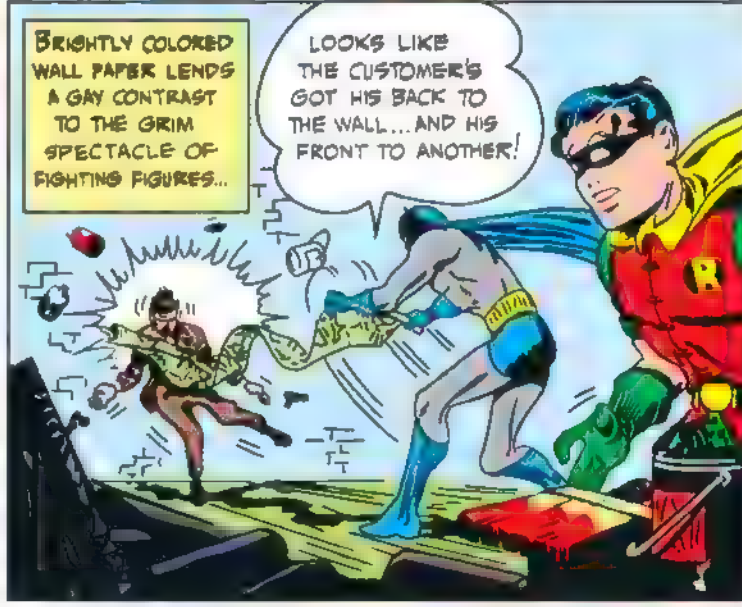
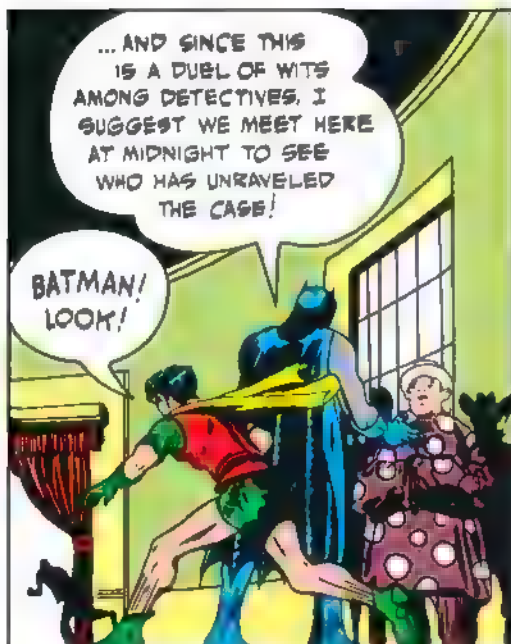
I THINK WE'D BETTER SIT DOWN. DRYE IS COMING UP TO SPEAK!

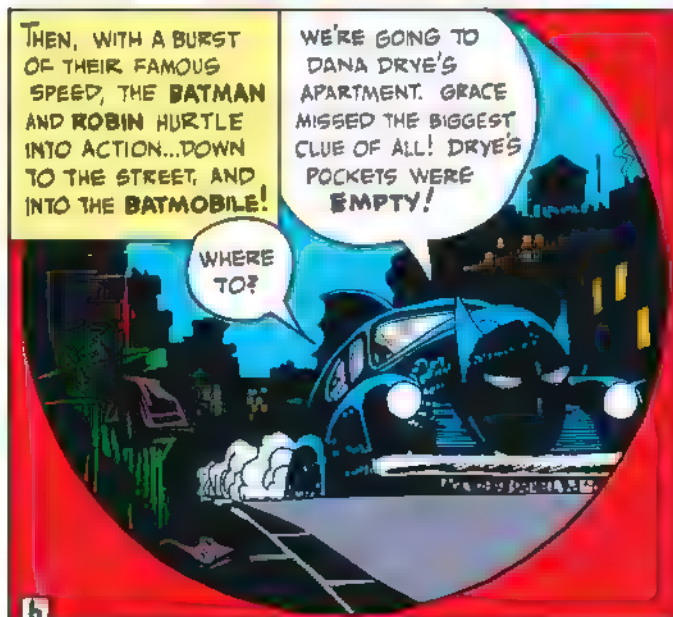
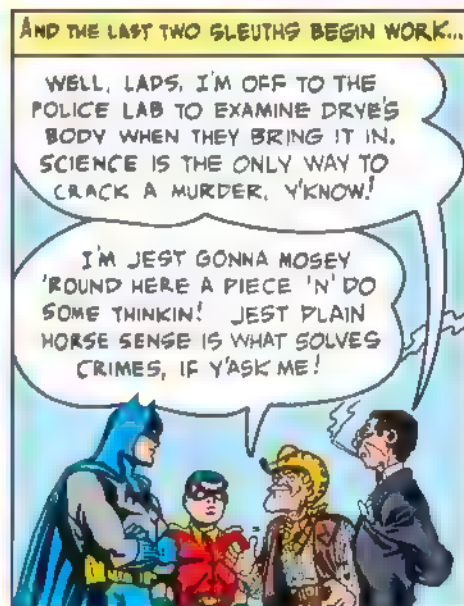
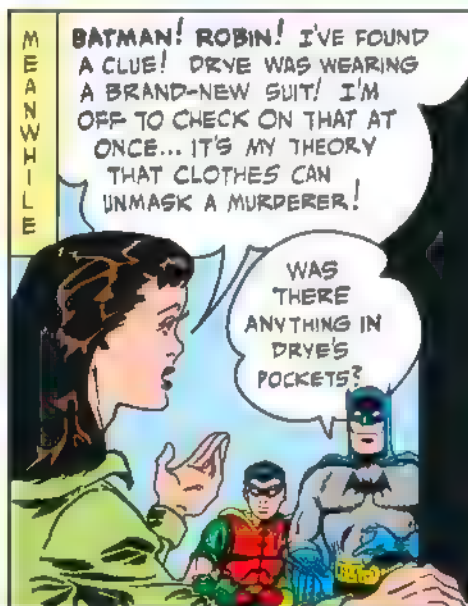
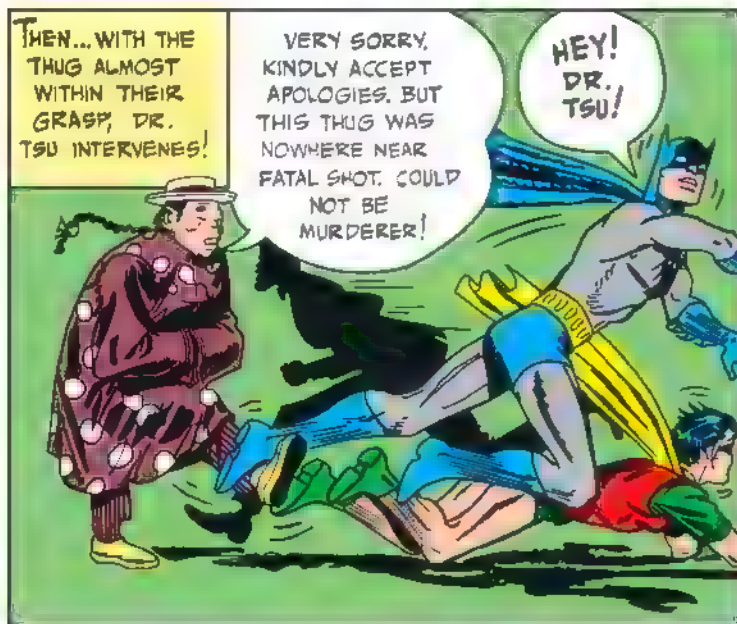
I'LL BE GOLDARNED! BATMAN! W'ARE YA!

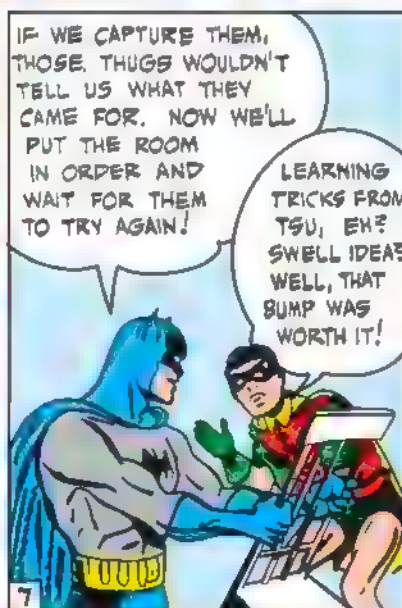
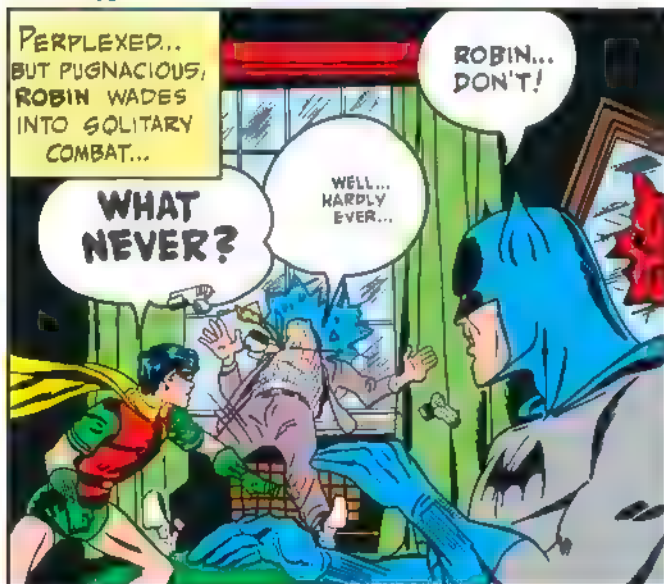
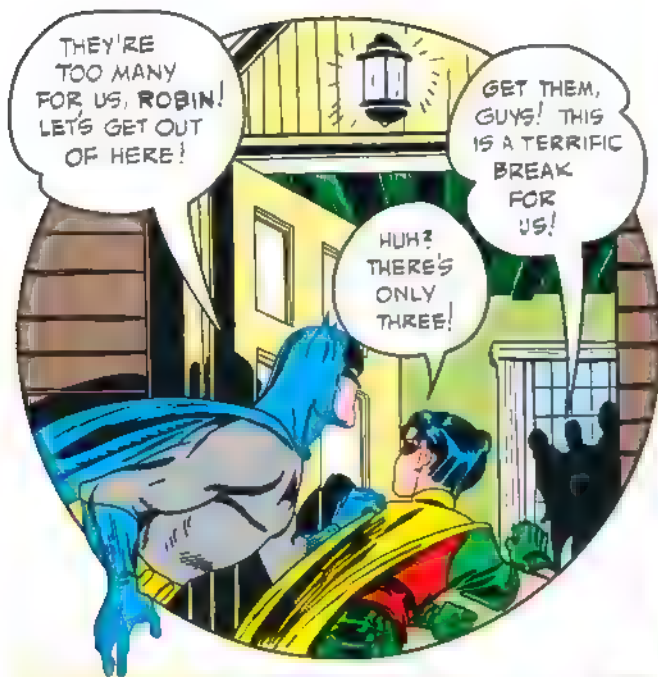
GLAD TO SEE YOU, SHERIFF PLUNKETT

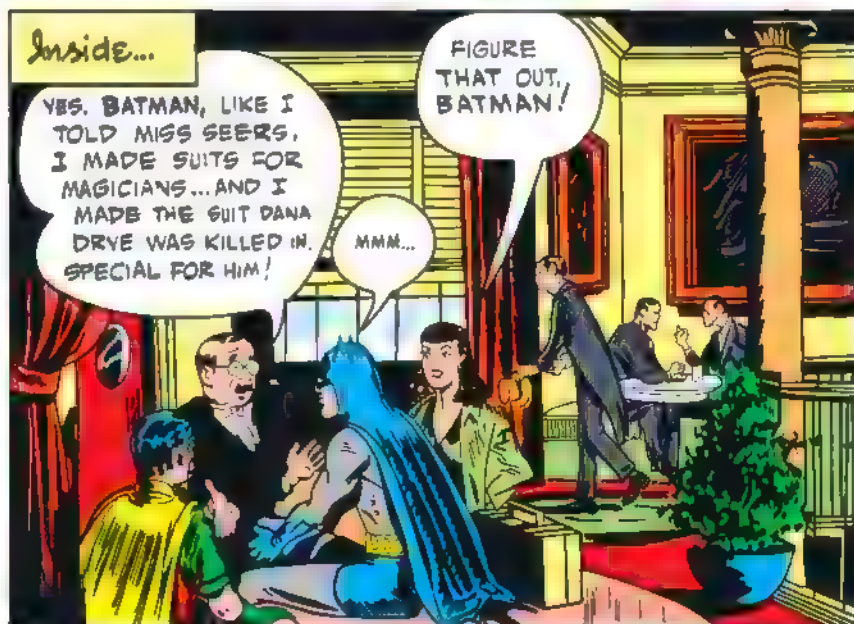
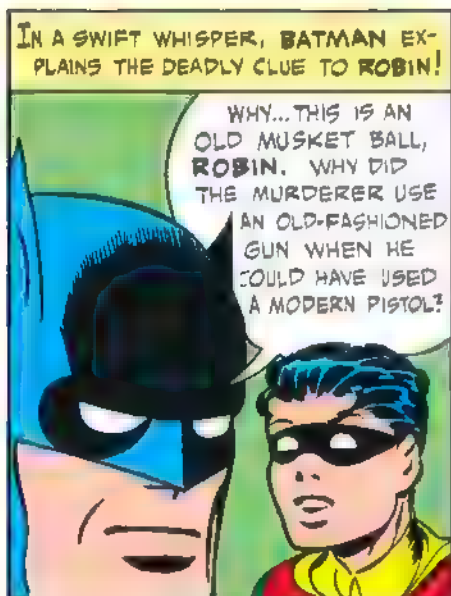
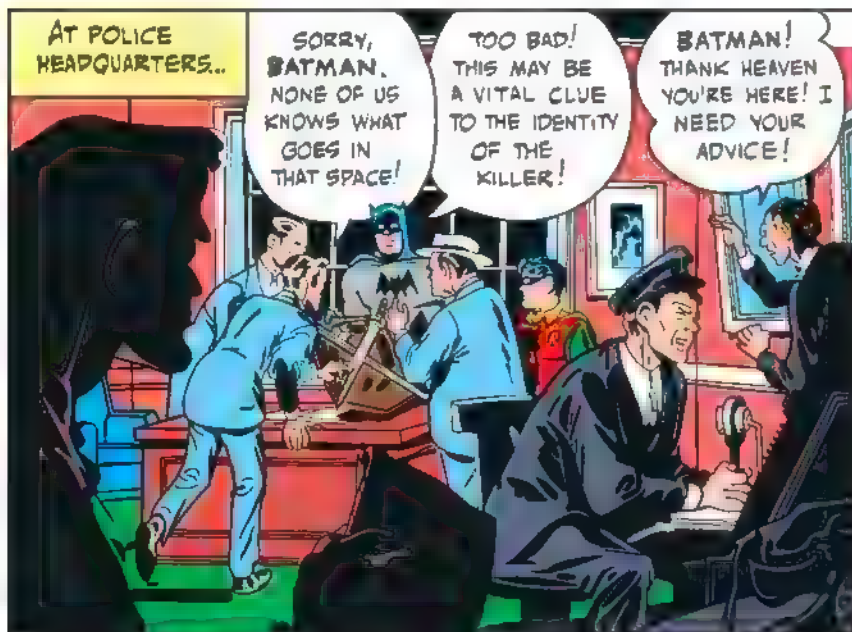


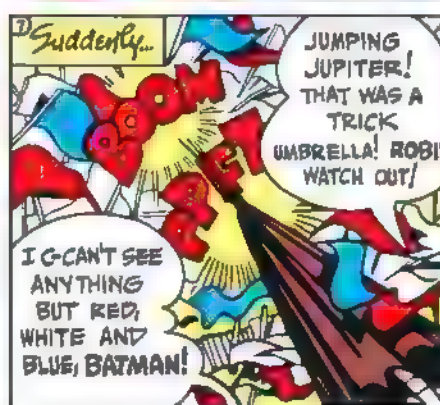
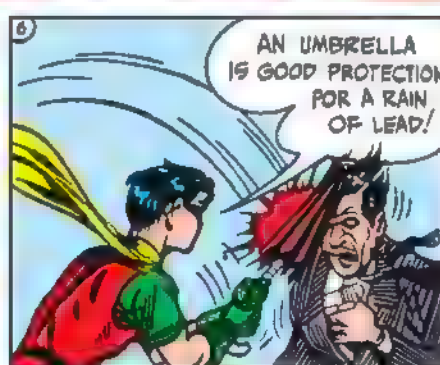
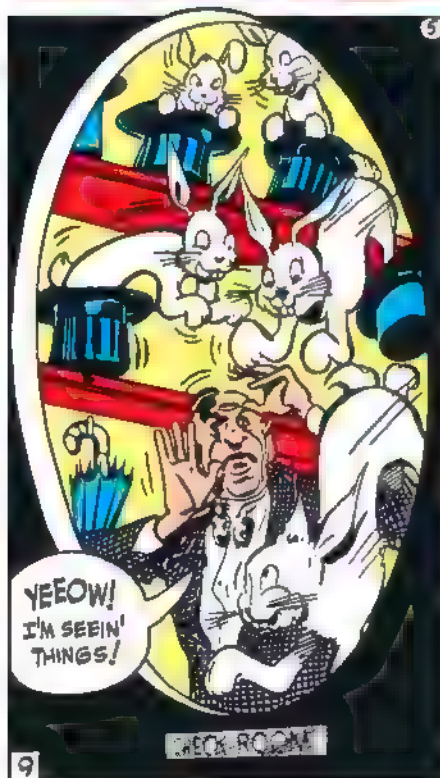
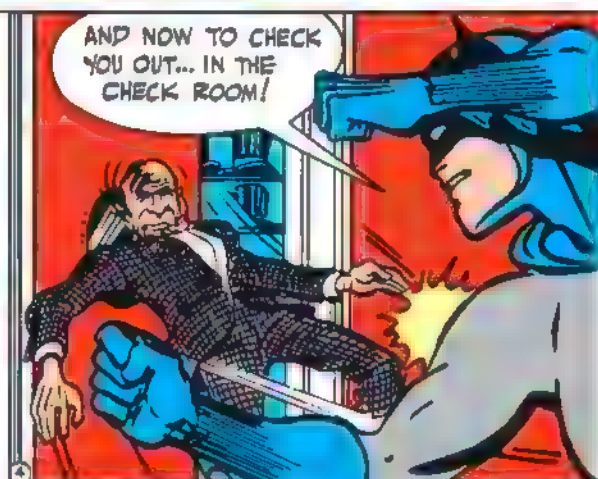
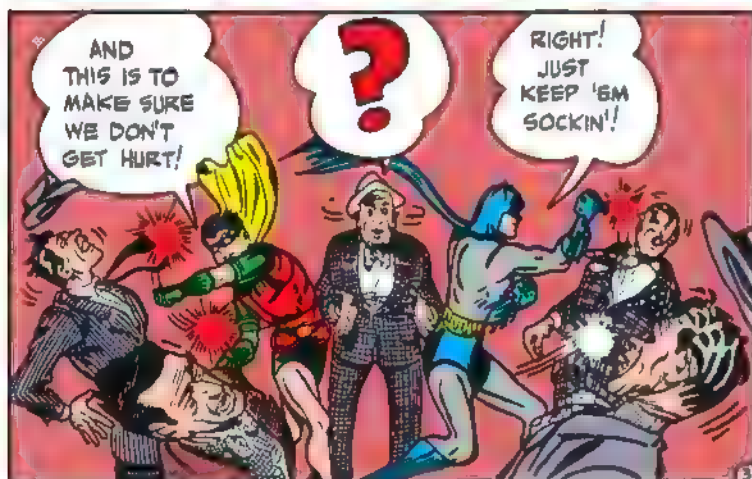
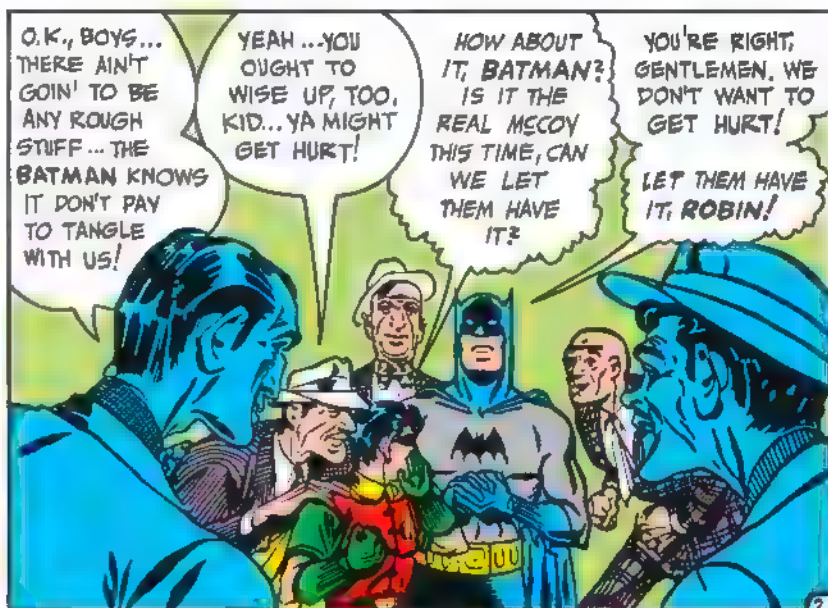
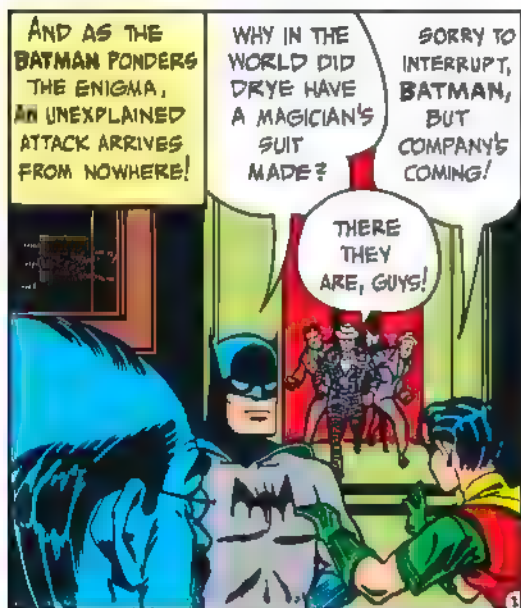


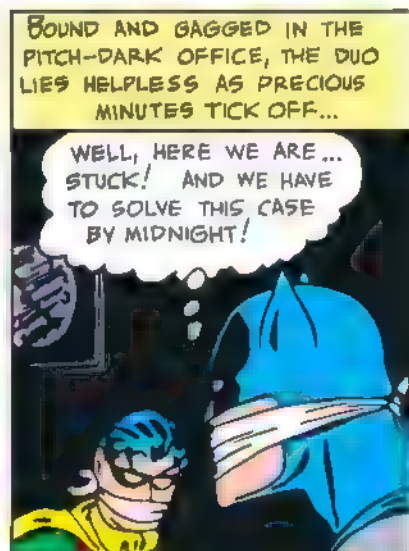
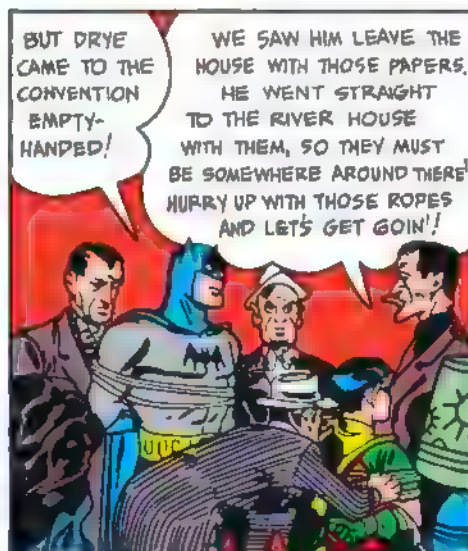
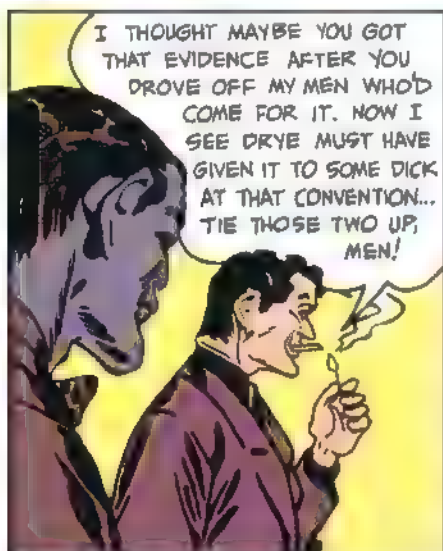
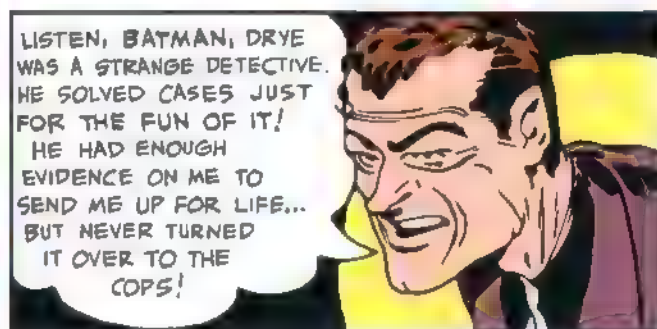


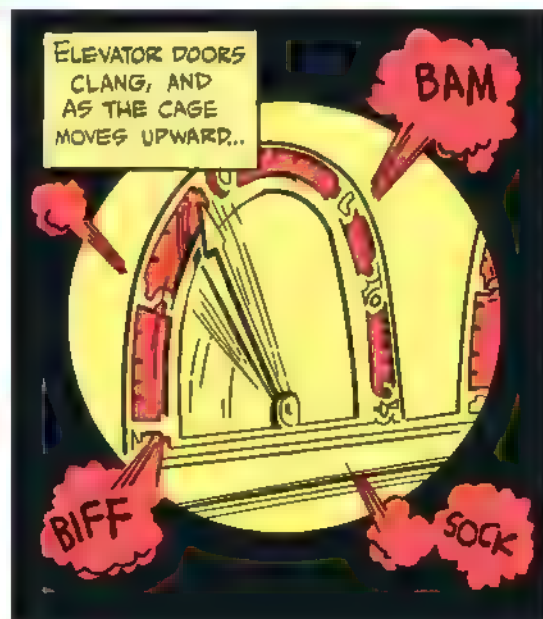
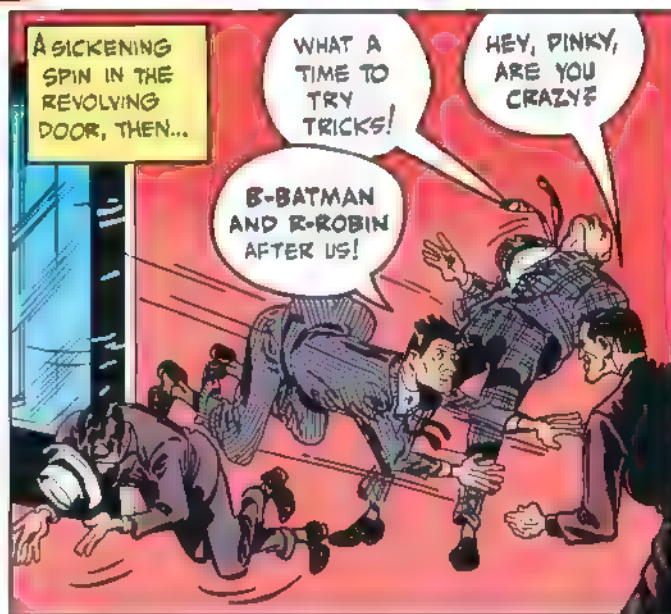
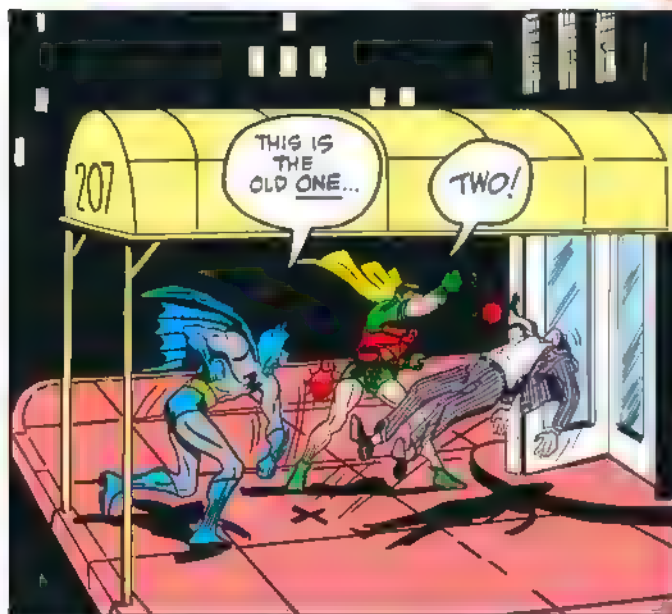
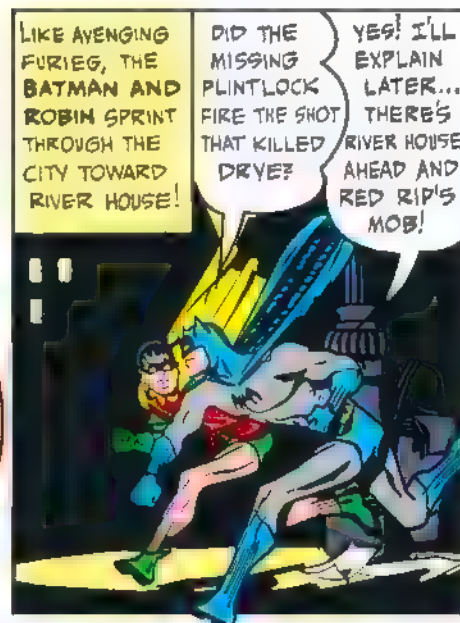
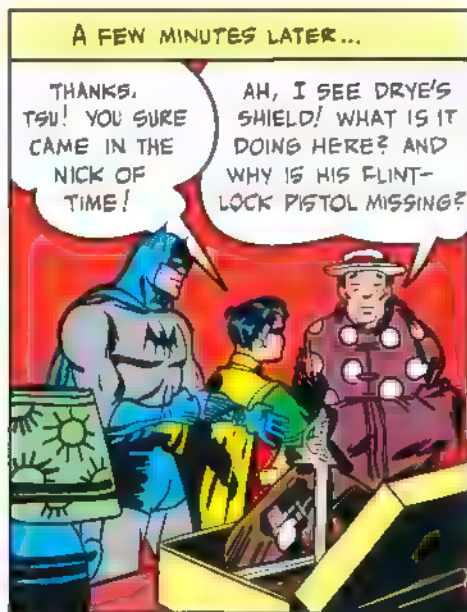


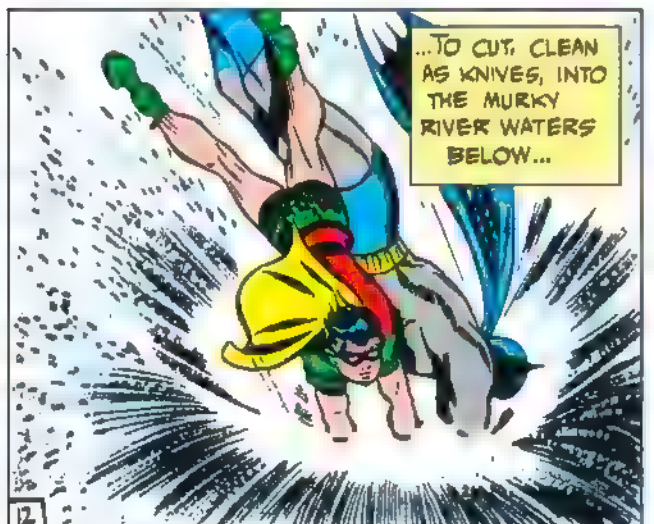
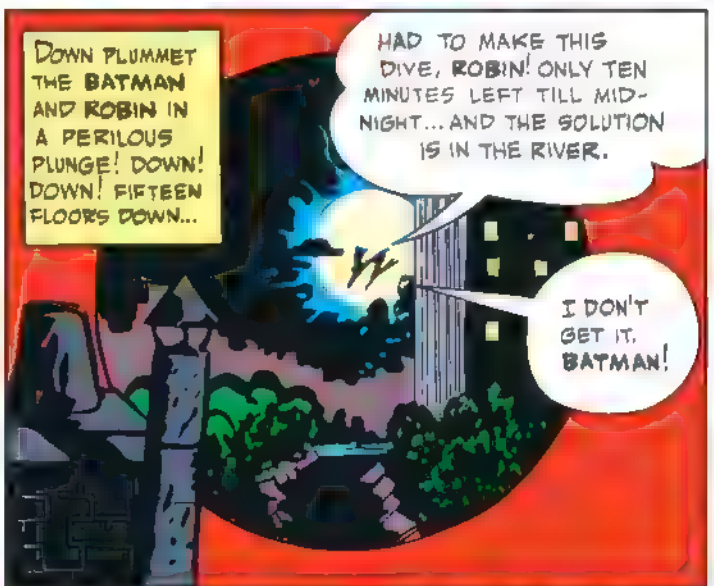
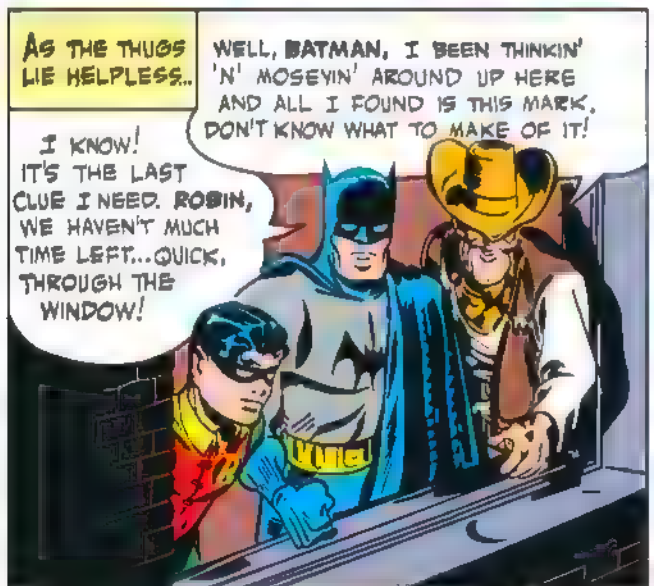
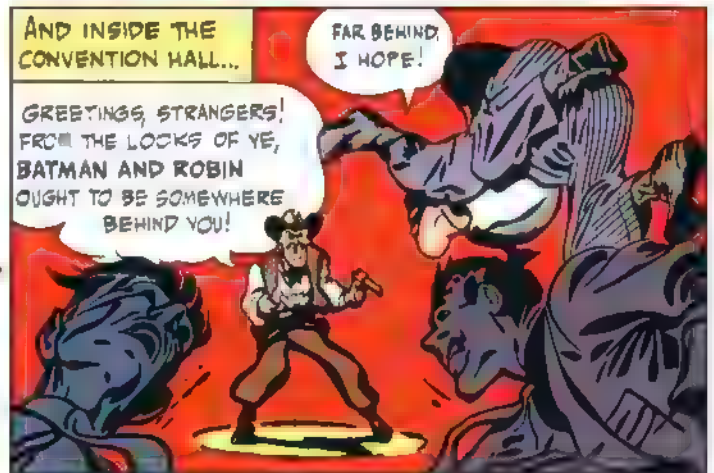


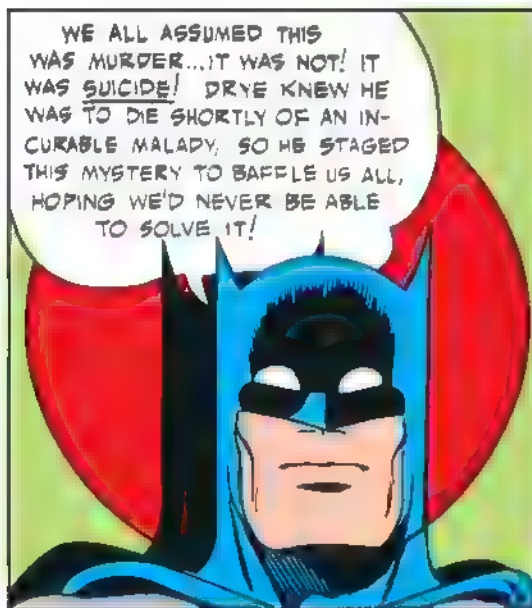








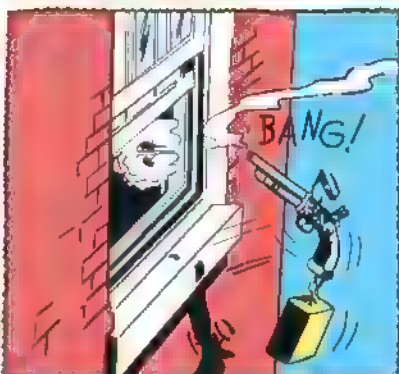




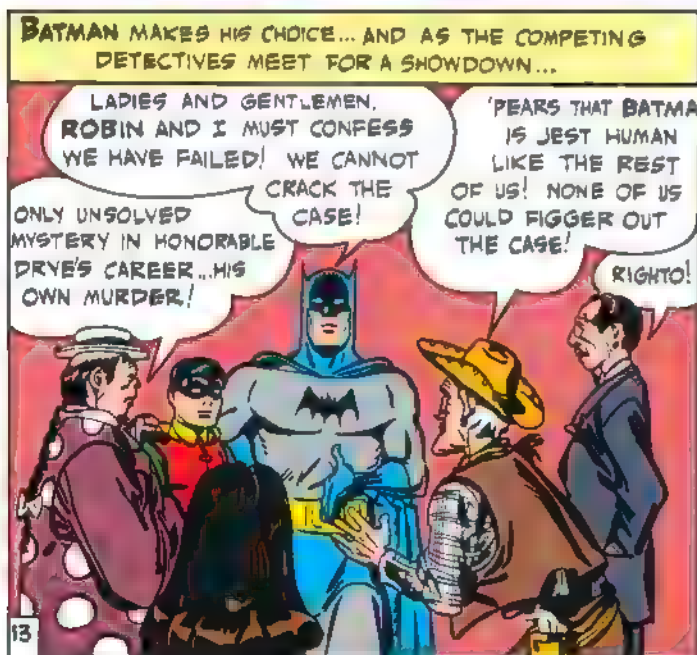
"DRYE KILLED HIMSELF WITH THIS APPARATUS. THE SUN WAS CONCENTRATED THRU THE GLASS AND SET OFF THE POWDER! THAT'S WHY HE HAD TO USE A FLINTLOCK! NO MODERN GUN CAN BE FIRED BY HEAT!"



"THE PAPERS RIP WANTED WERE IN A BOX ATTACHED TO THE GUN, AND THE RECOIL KNOCKED IT INTO THE RIVER. DRYE USED A MAGICIAN'S SUIT WITH SECRET POCKETS TO SMUGGLE HIS EQUIPMENT INTO THE MEETING!"



Jan 26th 1940
this last bit of evidence solves the greatest mystery I've worked on. I now have indisputable proof that the Batman and Bruce Wayne are one and the same man. However, since he wishes his identity kept secret I shall keep that secret for him.



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

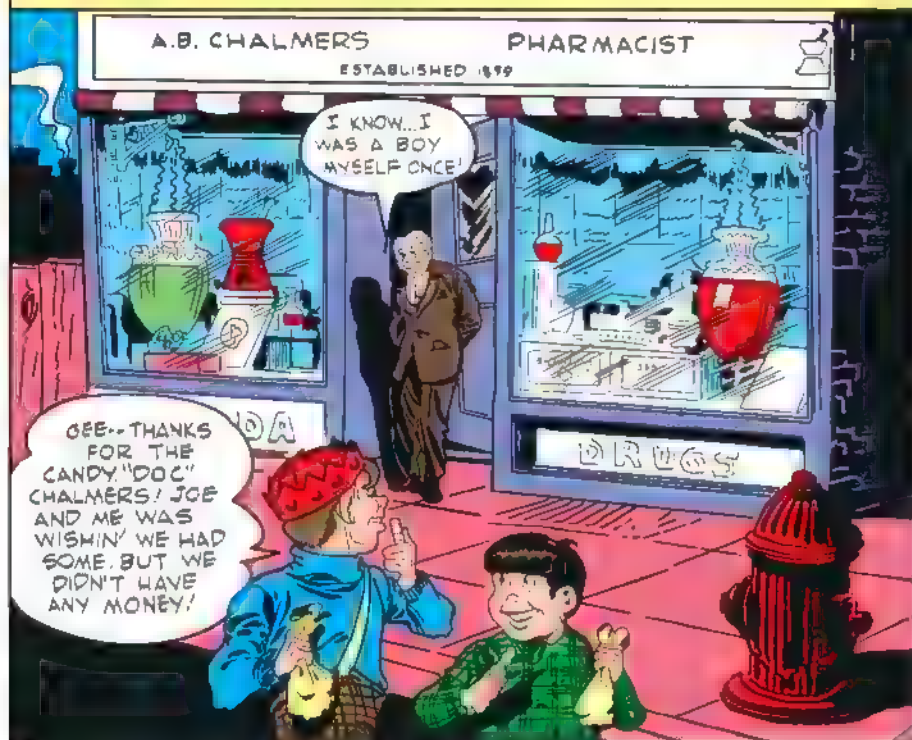
- THE BOY WONDER -

R EVERY NEIGHBORHOOD--INCLUDING YOURS--HAS ITS UNSUNG HERO... THE DRUGGIST! HERE'S A GRIPPING STORY ABOUT ONE OF THEM WHO NOT ONLY SELLS REMEDIES FOR HUMAN AILMENTS--BUT GIVES AWAY WHAT ALL THE MONEY IN THE WORLD CAN'T BUY! STANDING OVER HIS OLD-FASHIONED PRESCRIPTION COUNTER, "DOC" CHALMERS MIXES POTIONS OF NEW HOPE AND HAPPINESS FOR HIS TROUBLED FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS... BUT WHEN AN UNDERWORLD KILLER SPREADS TERROR THROUGH THE DISTRICT, THE OLD MAN'S WORLD CRASHES AROUND HIS EARS AND BURIES HIM DEEP IN TROUBLES OF HIS OWN--AND IT TAKES ALL THE ICY NERVE OF THE BATTLING BATMAN AND THE RECKLESS ROBIN TO WRITE A--

"PRESCRIPTION
FOR HAPPINESS!"



IN THE HEART OF GOTHAM CITY'S LOWER EAST SIDE STANDS THE HUMBLE SHOP OF A KINDLY OLD MAN...



I KNOW...I WAS A BOY MYSELF ONCE!

GEE-- THANKS FOR THE CANDY "DOC" CHALMERS! JOE AND ME WAS WISHIN' WE HAD SOME. BUT WE DIDN'T HAVE ANY MONEY!

"DOC" CHALMERS IS FAR FROM RICH-- BUT NO NEIGHBOR IN NEED EVER APPEALS TO HIM IN VAIN...

THE DOCTORS SAY MAMA'S JUST GOT TO HAVE THIS MEDICINE... BUT SHE CAN'T WORK TILL SHE'S BETTER-- (SUB) --AND--

MY GOODNESS, LUCY-- MONEY ISN'T THAT IMPORTANT, GIVE ME THE PRESCRIPTION!



ME, I WON'T EVER GET PROMOTED! I'VE BEEN ON THIS SAME BEAT FOR TEN YEARS! I'M IN A RUT!

DON'T LET IT GET YOU DOWN! EVERY MAN WHO DOES THE BEST HE CAN IS BOUND TO GET HIS BIG CHANCE SOME DAY!



IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE YOUR MOTHER NEEDS, YOU TELL ME... AND SEE IF THESE LOLLIPOPS DON'T MAKE YOU FEEL BETTER!

OH, THANK YOU AWFULLY MUCH!

THERE ARE TIMES WHEN HIS WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT DO AS MUCH GOOD AS THE REMEDIES ON HIS SHELVES...



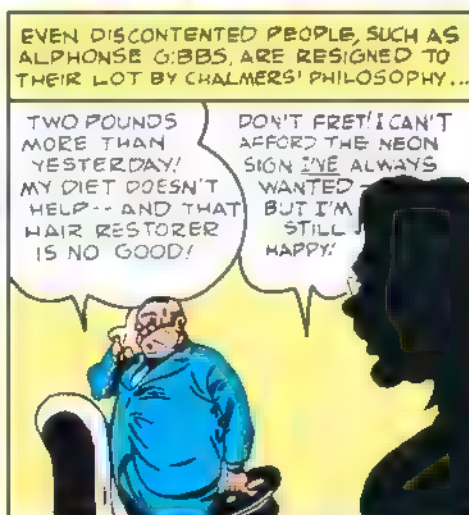
IT'S ME FEET AGAIN! THEY'RE BURNING SO I CAN HARDLY WALK ME BEAT!

THIS FOOT POWDER WILL KEEP THEM HAPPY TILL THE COMMISSIONER GIVES YOU A JOB ON WHEELS, PATTON!



I DON'T KNOW WHY, DOC-- BUT I ALWAYS FEEL CHEERED UP AFTER I'VE TALKED WITH YOU!

THAT'S THE FINEST COMPLIMENT ANYONE COULD GIVE ME!



EVEN DISCONTENTED PEOPLE, SUCH AS ALPHONSE GIBBS, ARE RESIGNED TO THEIR LOT BY CHALMERS' PHILOSOPHY...

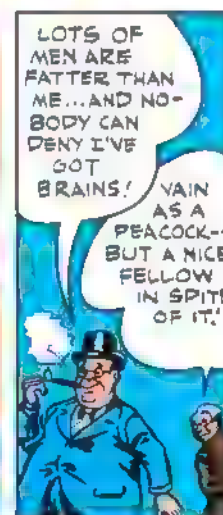
TWO POUNDS MORE THAN YESTERDAY! MY DIET DOESN'T HELP-- AND THAT HAIR RESTORER IS NO GOOD!

DON'T FRET! I CAN'T AFFORD THE NEON SIGN I'VE ALWAYS WANTED BUT I'M STILL HAPPY!



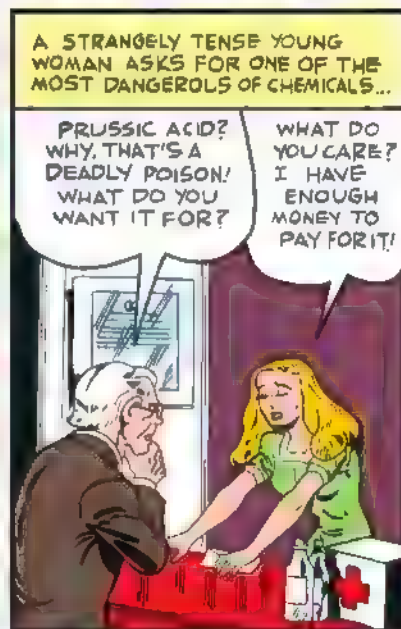
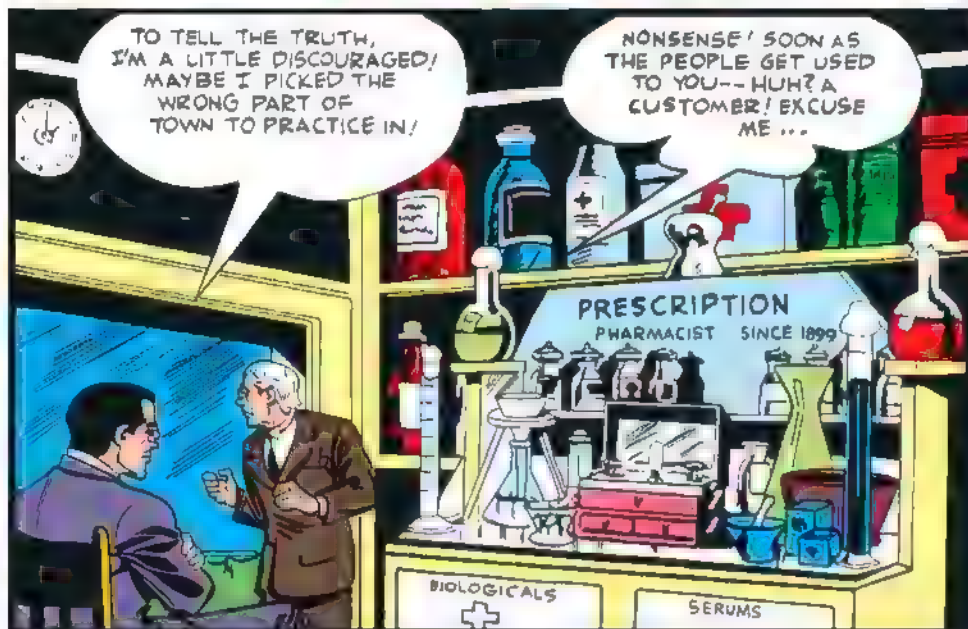
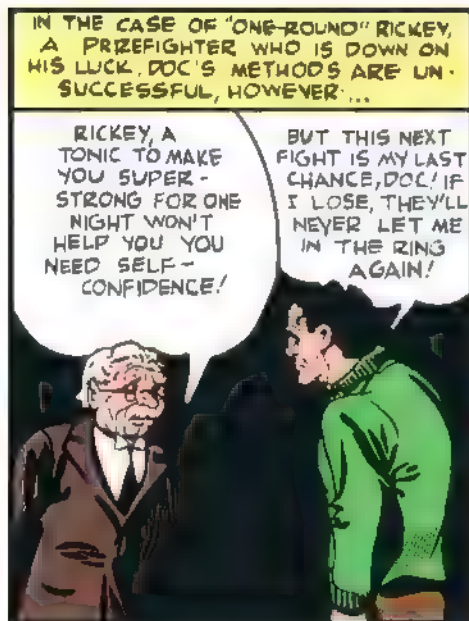
A MAN NEEDS SOME FLESH ON HIS BONES-- AND BALDNESS IS A SIGN OF INTELLIGENCE!

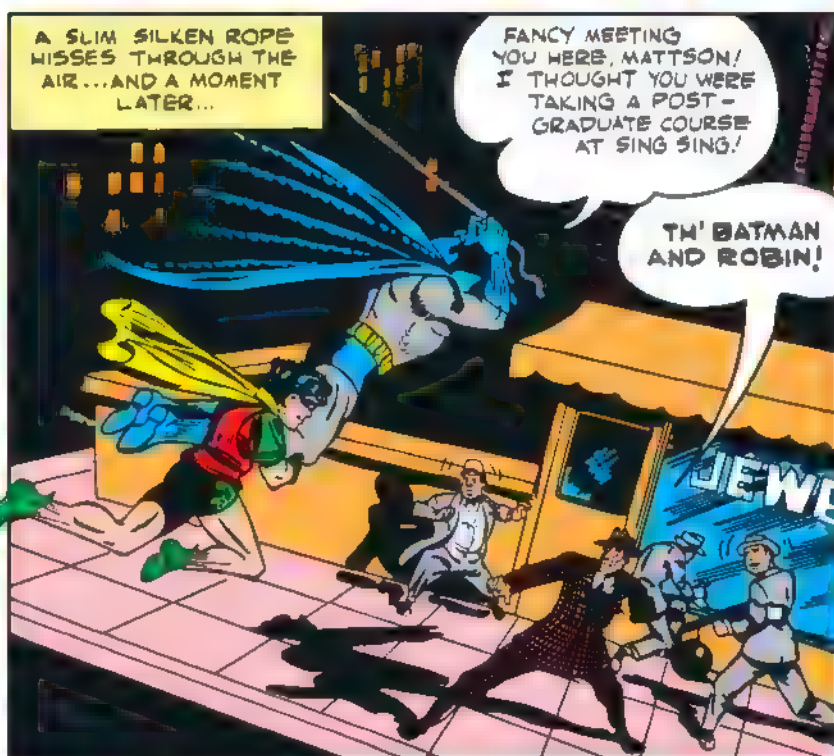
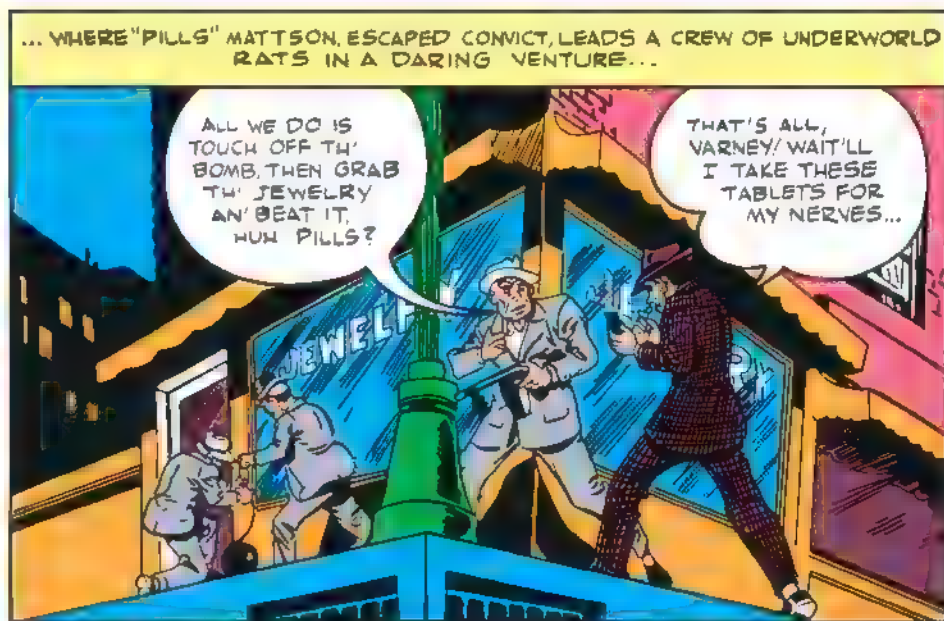
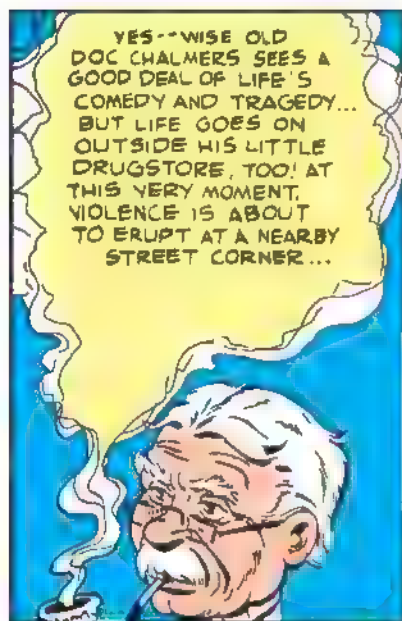
MAYBE YOU'RE RIGHT!

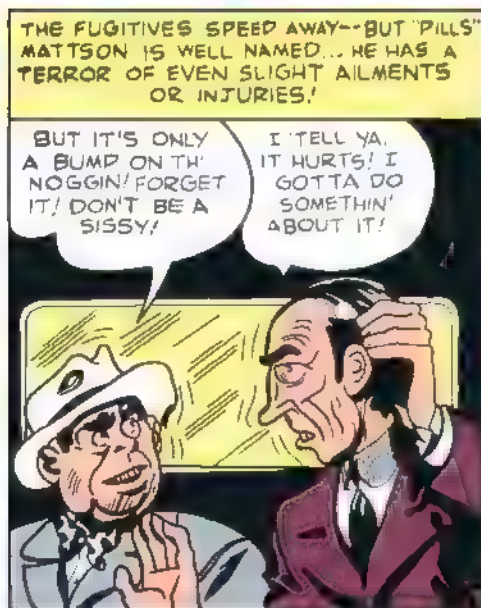
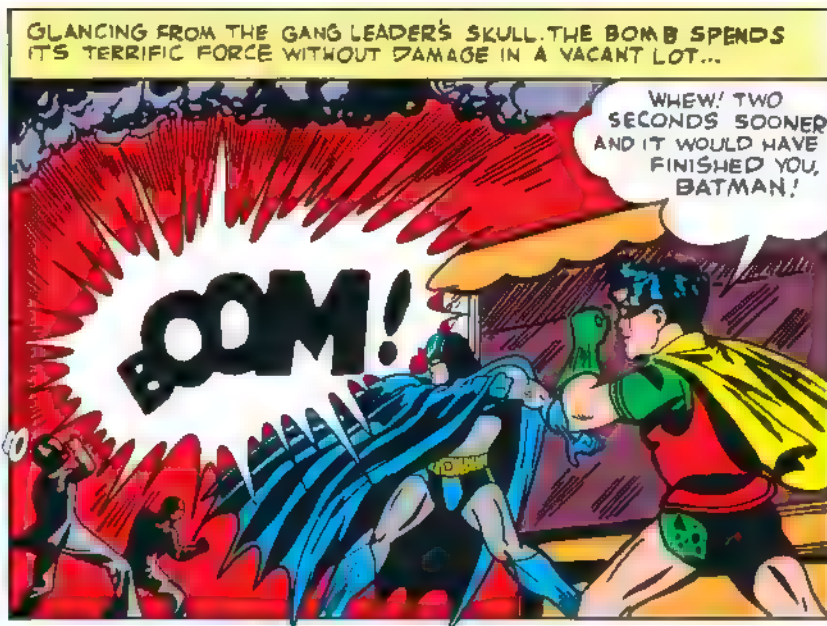
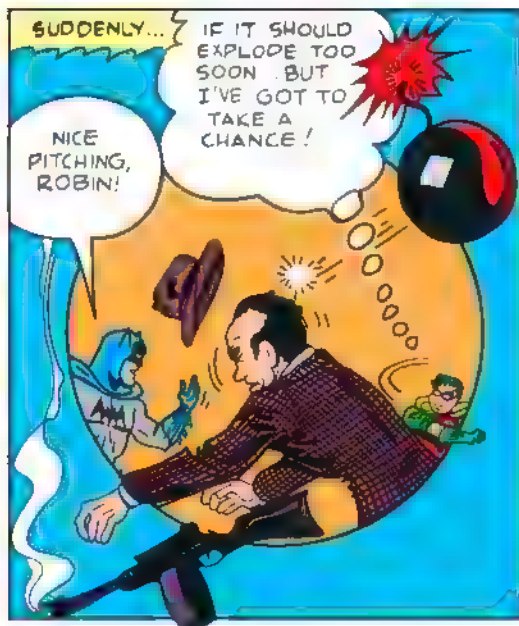


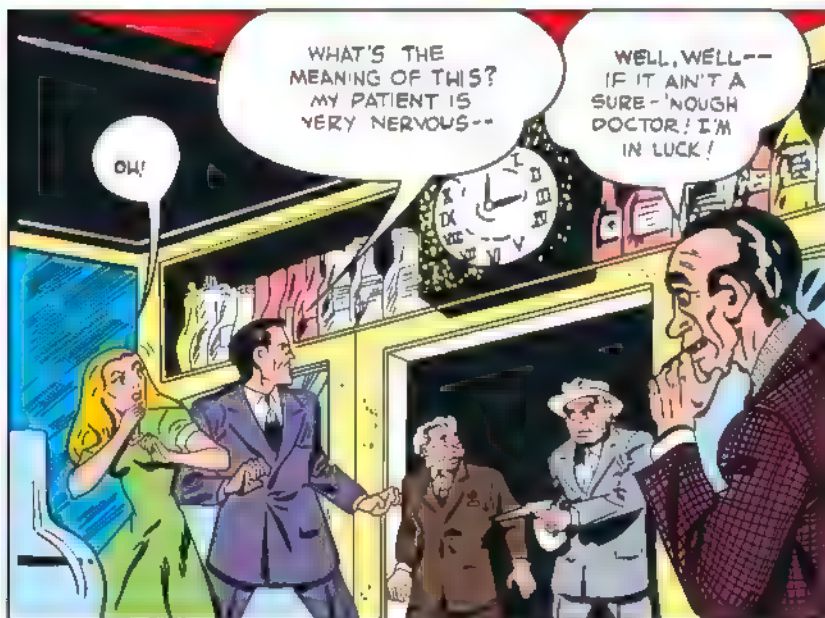
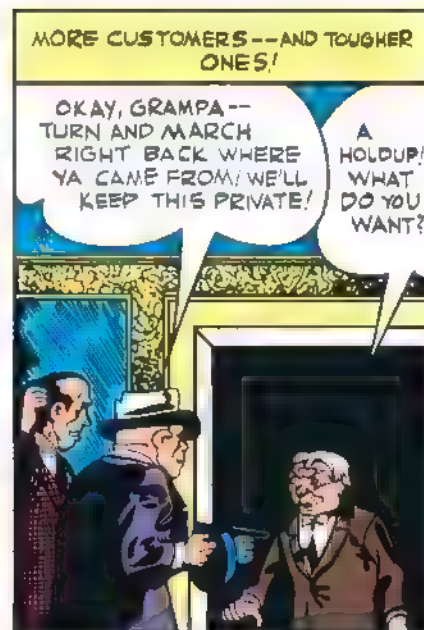
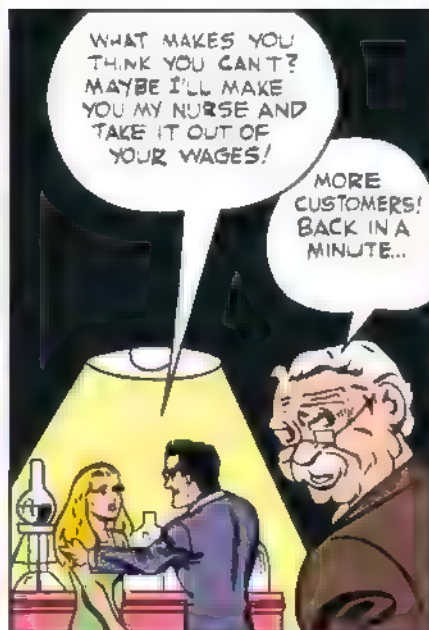
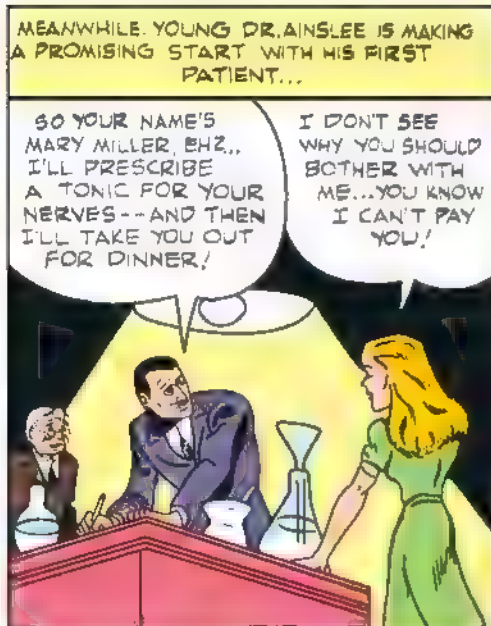
LOTS OF MEN ARE FATTER THAN ME... AND NOBODY CAN DENY I'VE GOT BRAINS!

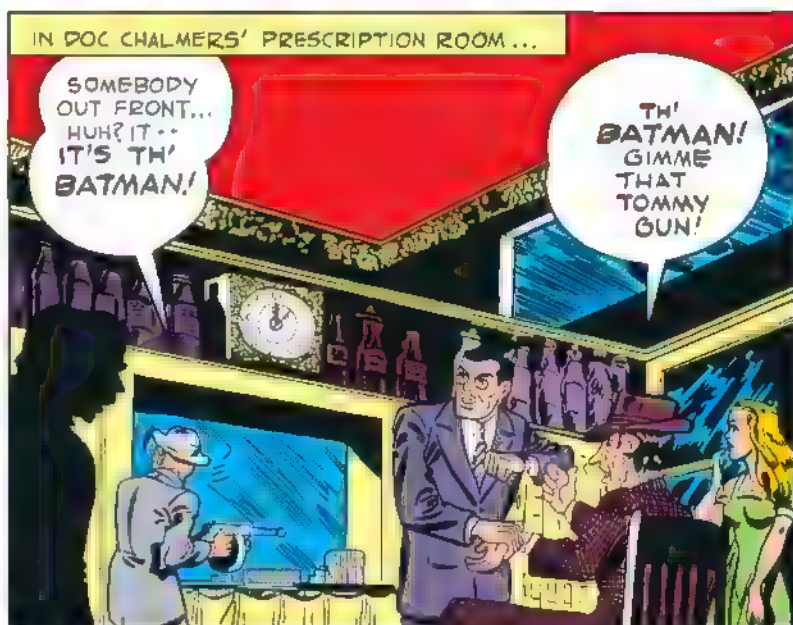
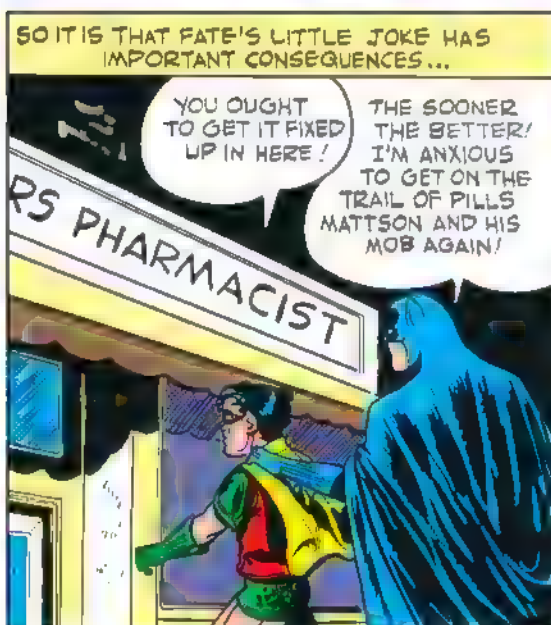
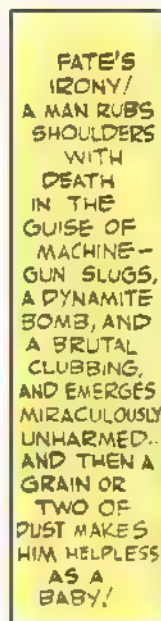
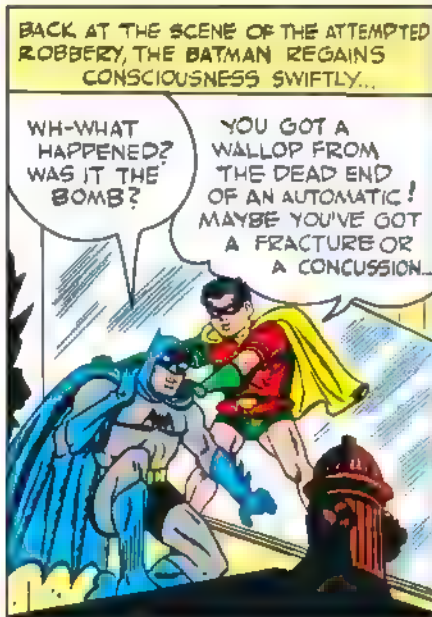
VAIN AS A PEACOCK-- BUT A NICE FELLOW IN SPITE OF IT!

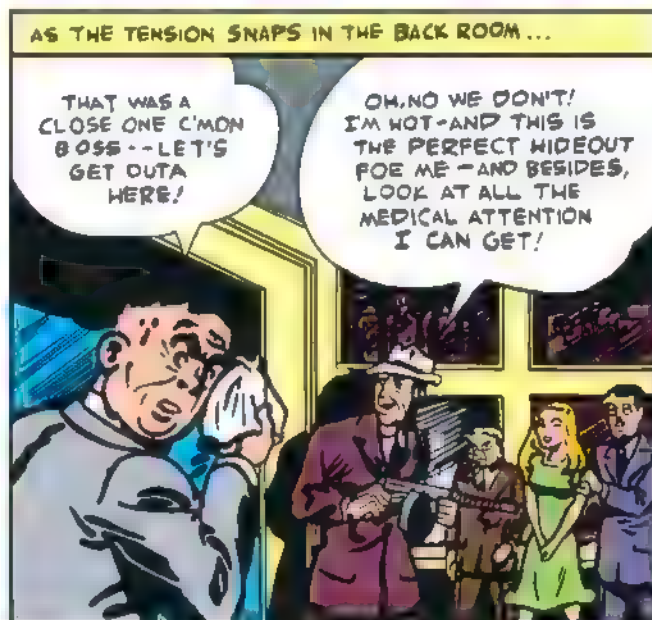
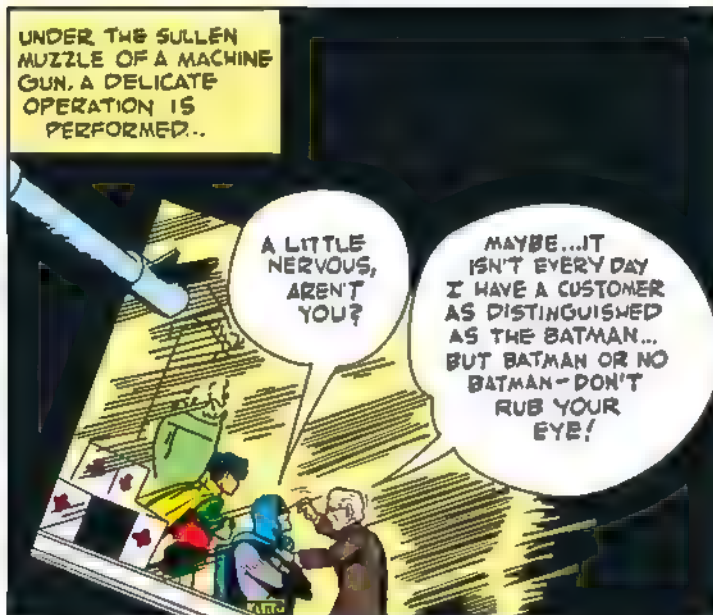












NEXT DAY SEES THE BEGINNING OF A SERIES OF FANTASTIC, SEEMINGLY POINTLESS CRIMES, FLARING ALL ACROSS GOTHAM CITY'S LOWER EAST SIDE...



IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, WEALTHY MAN ABOUT TOWN, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...

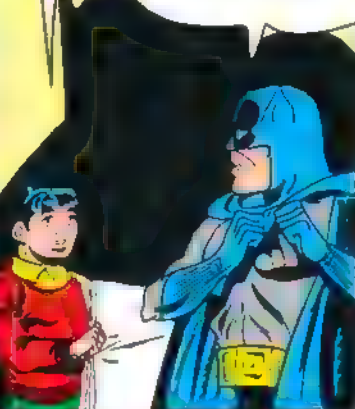
THE EAST SIDE! BRUCE-- THAT'S WHERE WE RAN INTO PILLS MATTSON LAST NIGHT! MAMMA... THE CROOKS STOLE DRUGSTORE PRODUCTS IN EVERY CASE!

AND REMEMBER HOW NERVOUS THE OLD DRUGGIST WAS WHEN HE WORKED ON ME? I'M GOING BACK THERE!



WHY CAN'T I GO ALONG THIS TIME?

BECAUSE I'M NOT SURE WHAT I'LL BE WALKING INTO-- AND IF IT'S TROUBLE, I'LL BE COUNTING ON YOU TO GET ME OUT OF IT!



IT'S TROUBLE. ALL RIGHT, BATMAN-- TROUBLE YOU MIGHT AVOID IF YOU'D TAKE DOC CHALMERS AT HIS WORD!

BATMAN! YOU MUSTN'T GO BACK THERE! WAIT--

FUNNY-- I CAN'T HEAR A WORD YOU'RE SAYING!



ABRUPTLY...

PILLS MATTSON!... CHLOROFORM... UH-H-H-H...

YEAH, CHLOROFORM, BATMAN! ONE O' TH' ADVANTAGES OF HIDIN' OUT IN A DRUG-STORE IS THAT STUFF LIKE THIS IS HANDY!



LATER, WHEN THE BATMAN AWAKENS FROM A DRUGGED STUPOR...

DON'T KILL HIM, MATTSON-- PLEASE!

NOT YET, SISTER. NOT TILL I MAKE SURE THAT BEAT WHO WORKS FOR HIM ISN'T SNOOPIN' AROUND!

HUH?... I'VE BEEN SLEEPING...



YA SEE, I KILL TH' GIRL-- AN' YOU, TOO-- IF TH' DRUGGIST OR HIS DOCTOR PAL SQUEALS... AND I SMUGGLE MESSAGES TO MY GANG INSIDE TUBES OF MEDICINE AN' STUFF!

AND YOUR GANGSTERS BEAT AND KILL PEOPLE FOR THOSE MESSAGES! PILLS YOU'RE TOO SMART FOR YOUR OWN GOOD!



THAT NIGHT IS A SLEEPLESS ONE FOR DICK GRAYSON...

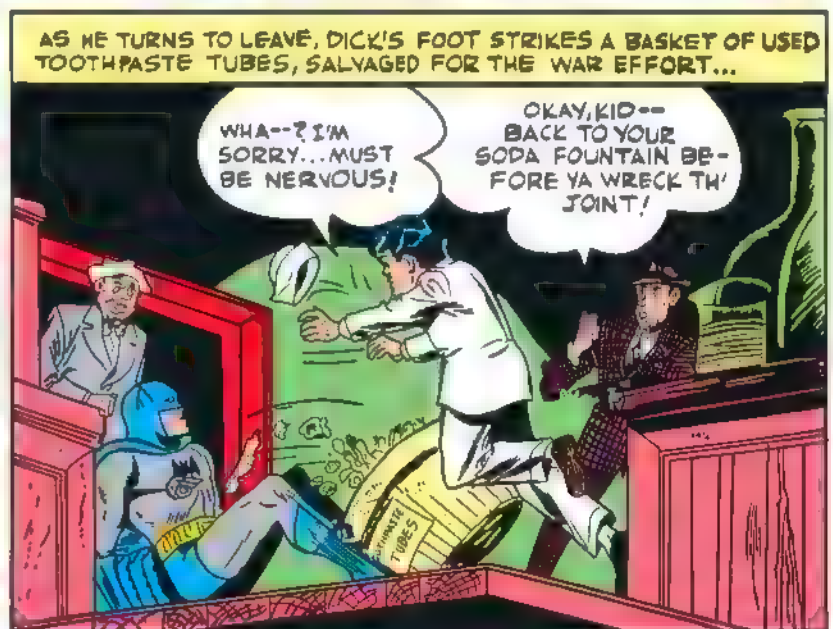
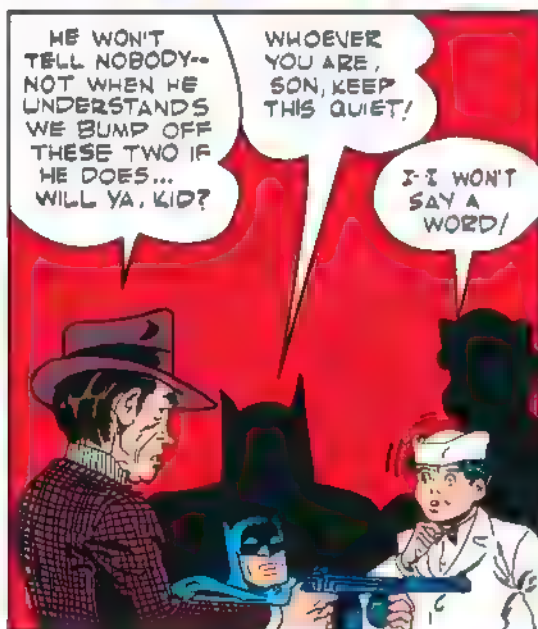
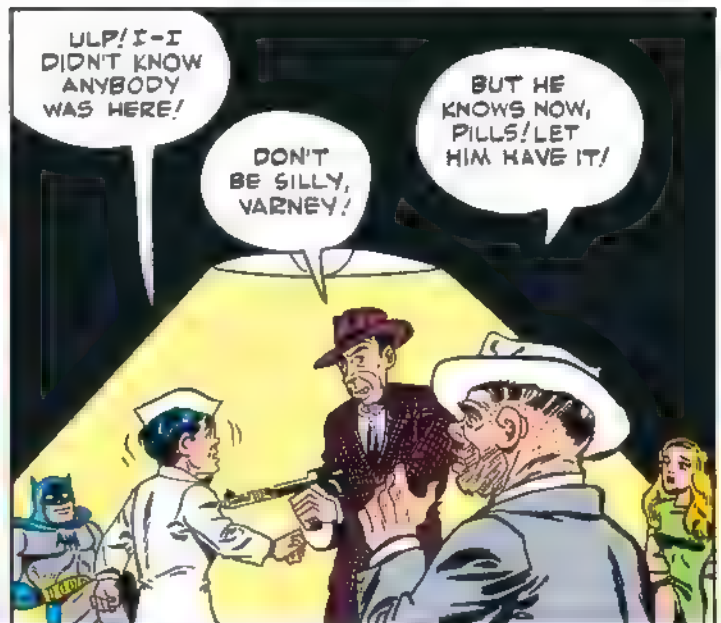
I SHOULD HAVE HEARD FROM HIM LONG AGO... I'M SURE SOMETHING TERRIBLE HAS HAPPENED...

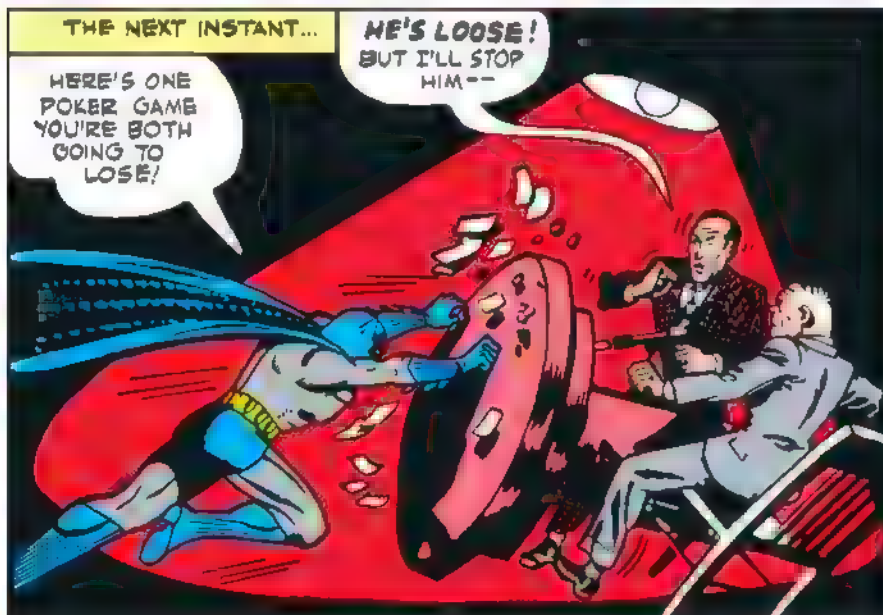
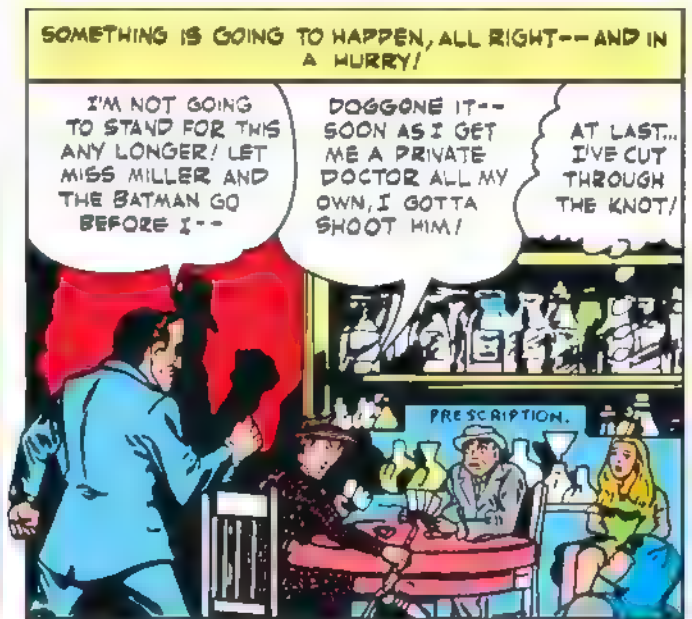


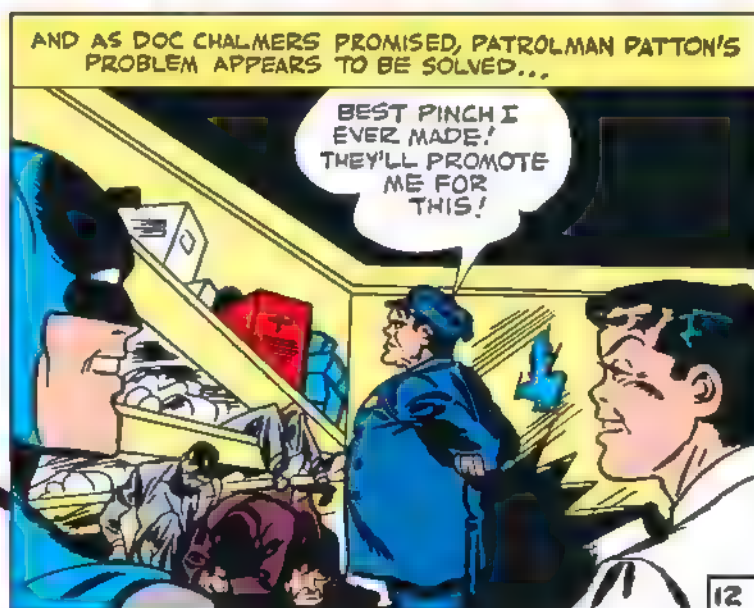
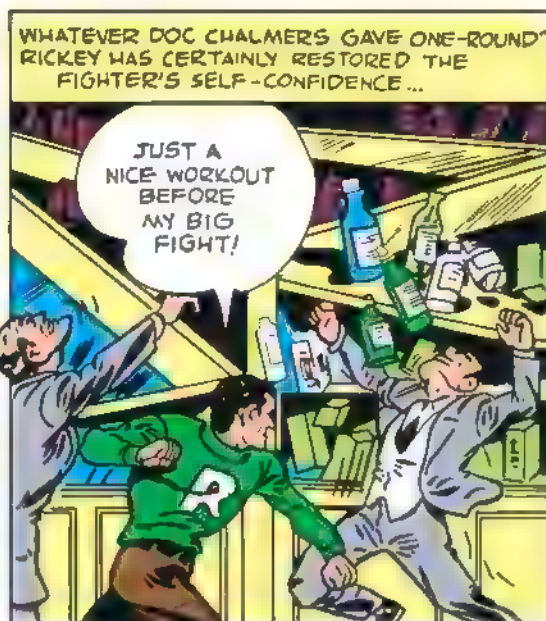
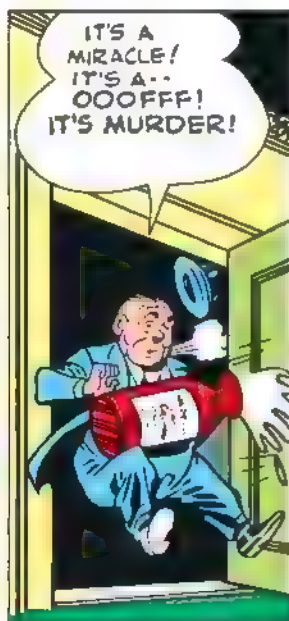
AND WHEN MORNING COMES...

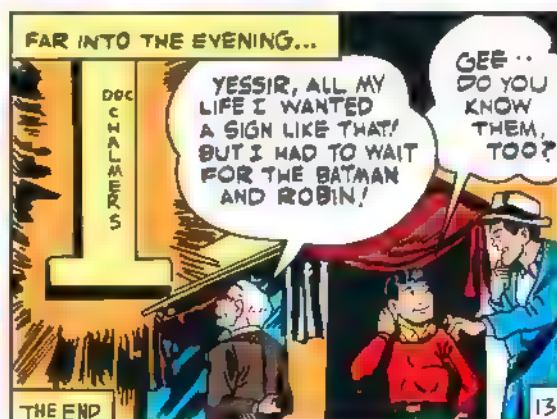
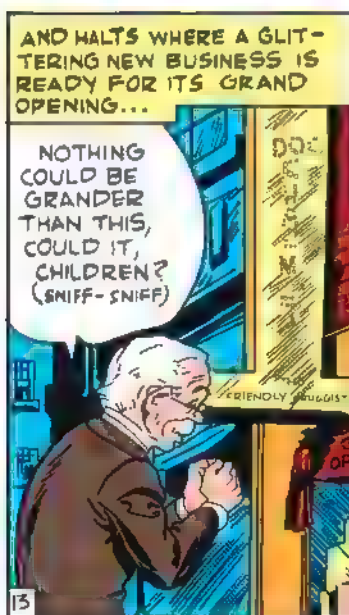
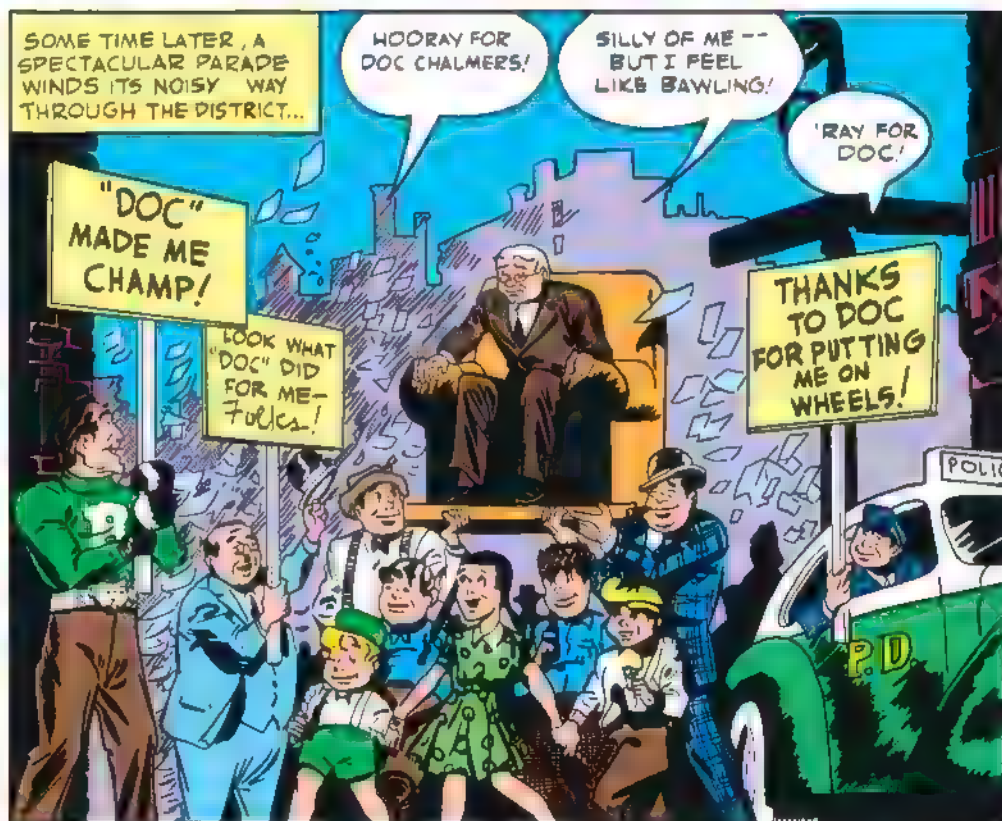
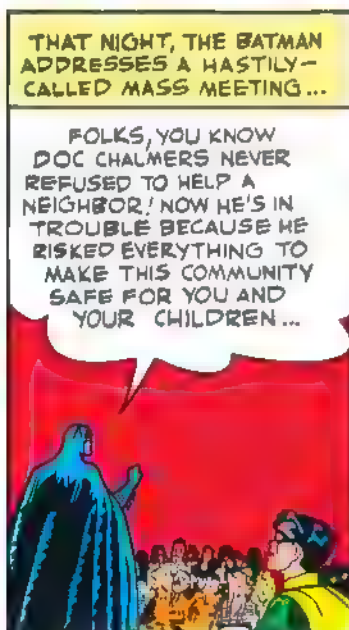
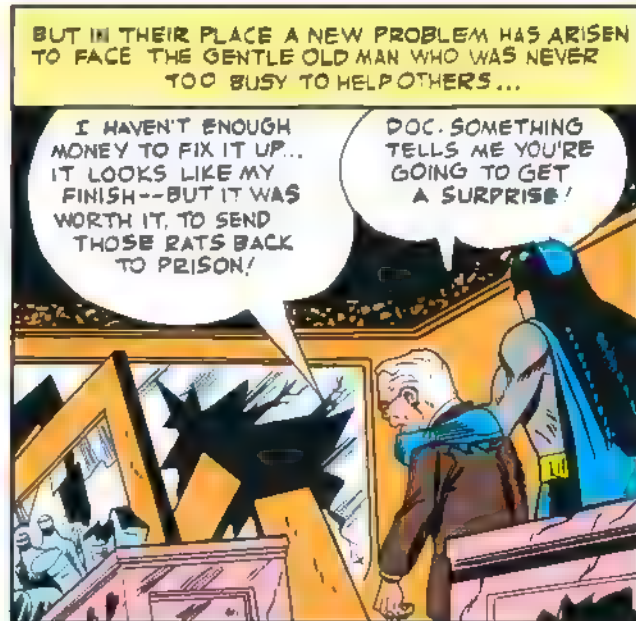
I'M GOING DOWN TO THAT DRUGSTORE-- BUT NOT AS ROBIN!











BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

BOB
KANE



THEY THRIVE ON THRILLS...THE MEN WHO RISK THEIR NECKS TO BRING YOU THE WORLD'S DRAMA AND EXCITEMENT IN THE NEWSREELS! WHEREVER FLOOD THE WATERS RAGE, FLAMES ROAR, OR EARTHQUAKES LEVEL CITIES...WHEREVER TRAGEDY STRIKES AT HUMAN BEINGS...YOU'LL FIND THEM DOING THEIR JOB WITH CARELESS HEROISM, FACING DANGERS AND HARSHIPS TO RECORD HISTORY IN THE MAKING!...THIS IS THE AMAZING STORY OF LOYAL AMERICAN CAMERAMEN VICTIMIZED BY TREACHERY OF MASTER SPIES...AND OF A DESIGN FOR MURDER AND DESTRUCTION SO CUNNING THAT IT TAKES ALL THE WITS AND STRENGTH AND SPEED OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN AND THE DAREDEVIL ROBIN TO SMASH THE MENACE OF...
"SWASTIKA OVER THE WHITE HOUSE!"

AN AMBITIOUS FELLOW INVADERS GOTHAM CITY NEWSREEL OFFICES...

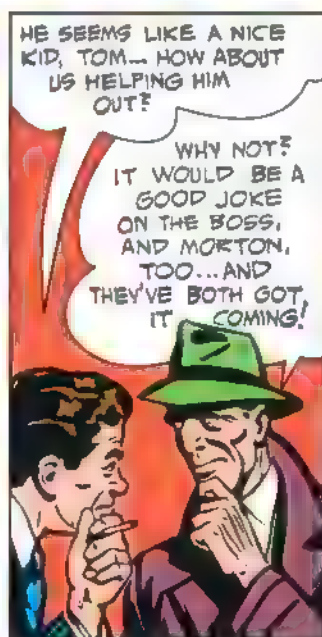
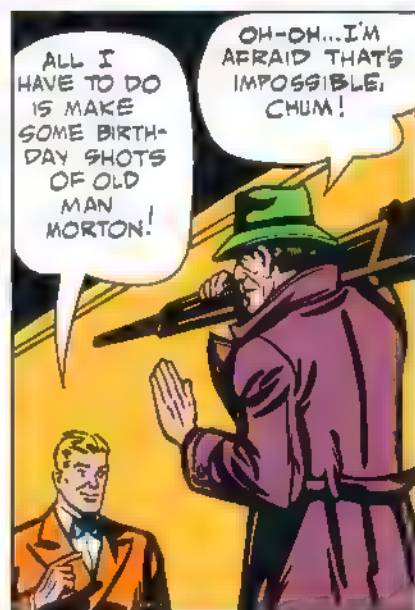
REMEMBER ME, MR. MCSOY?... FRED HOPPER, THE AMATEUR MOVIE PHOTOGRAPHER.. I'VE BEEN TRYING TO GET A JOB AS A CAMERAMAN...

SORRY, SON... THIS IS A FAST, TOUGH GAME, AND IT CALLS FOR EXPERIENCED MEN!

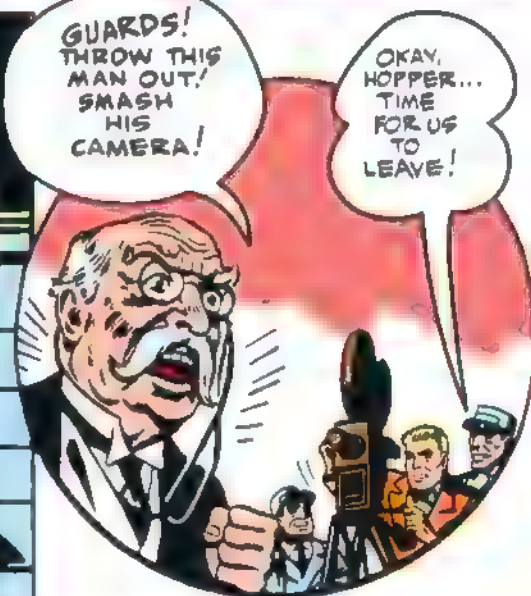
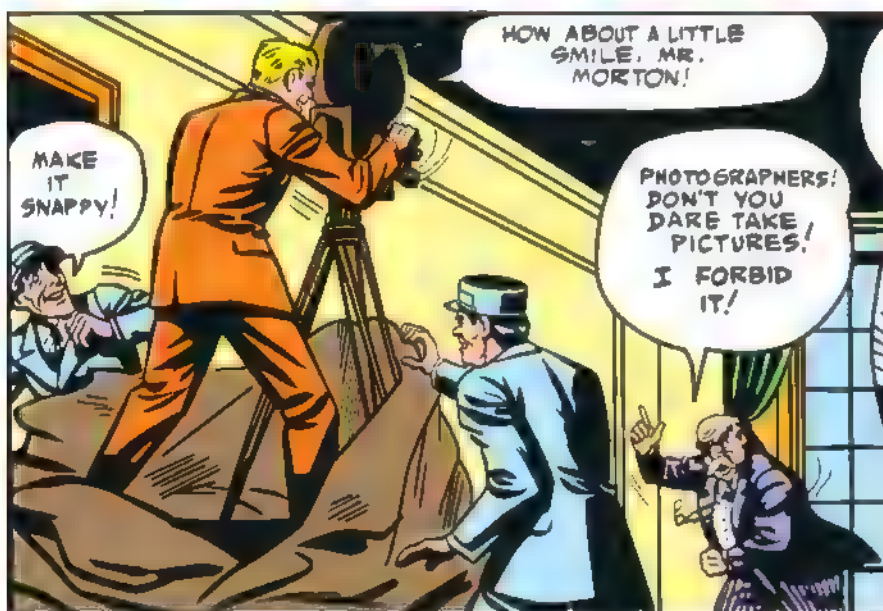
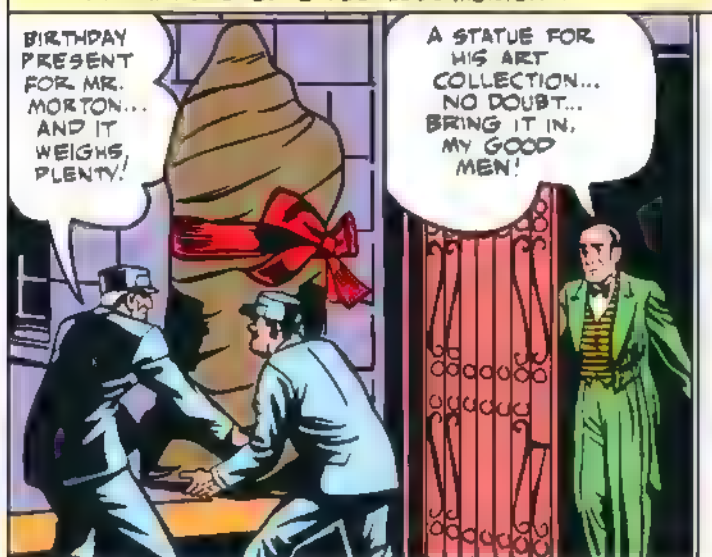


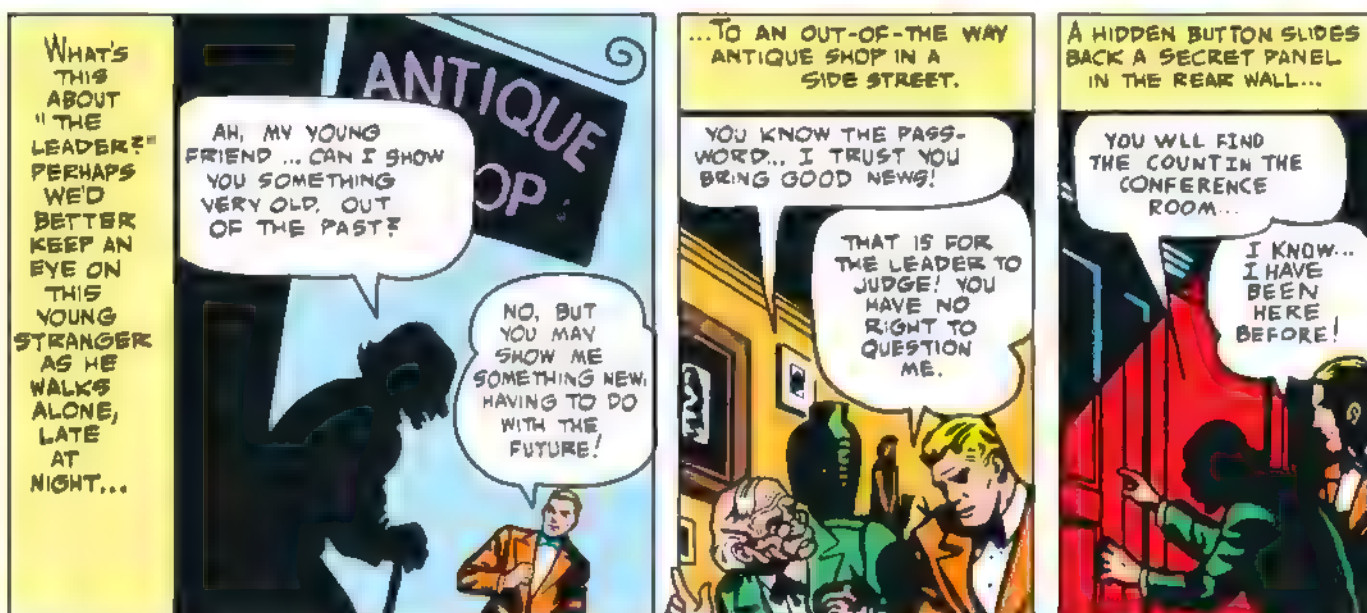


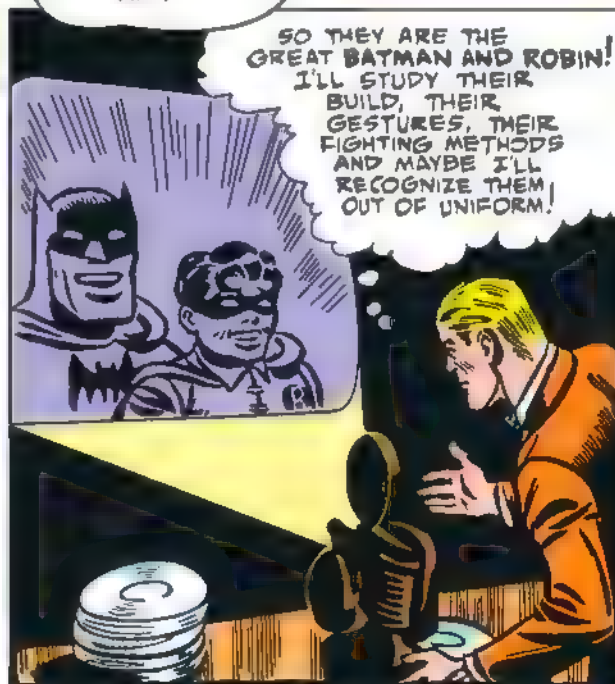
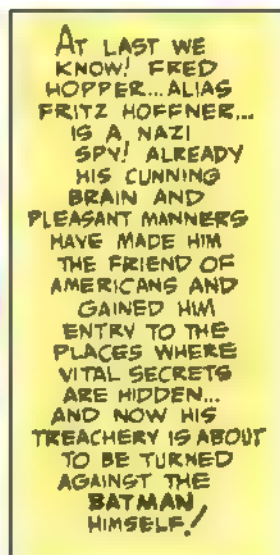
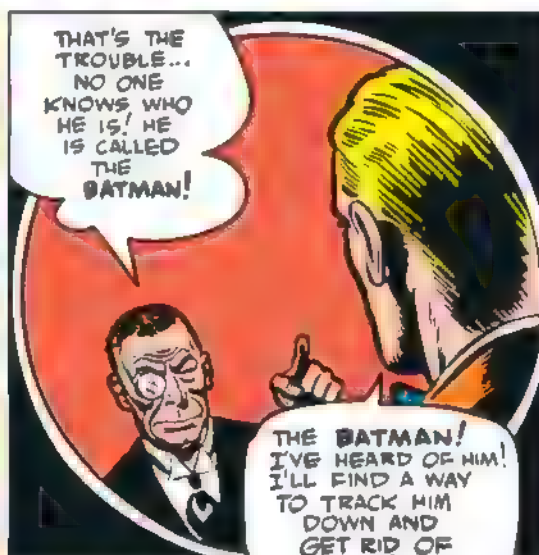
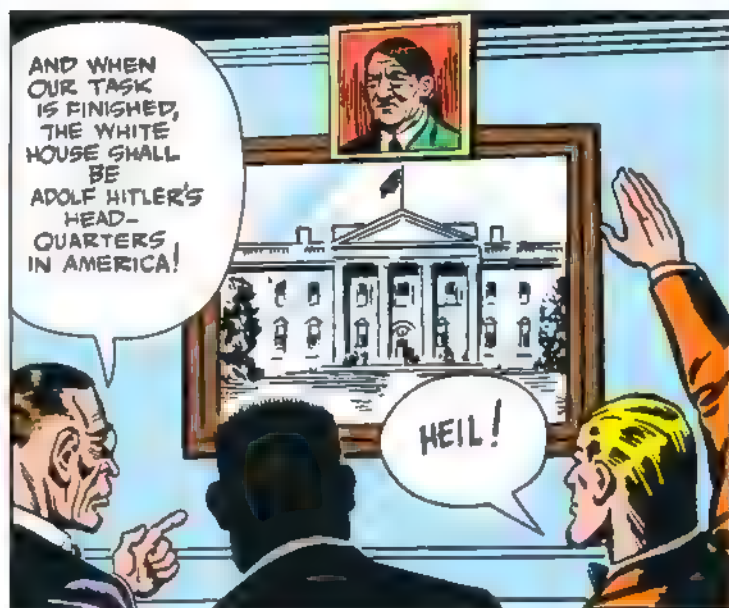
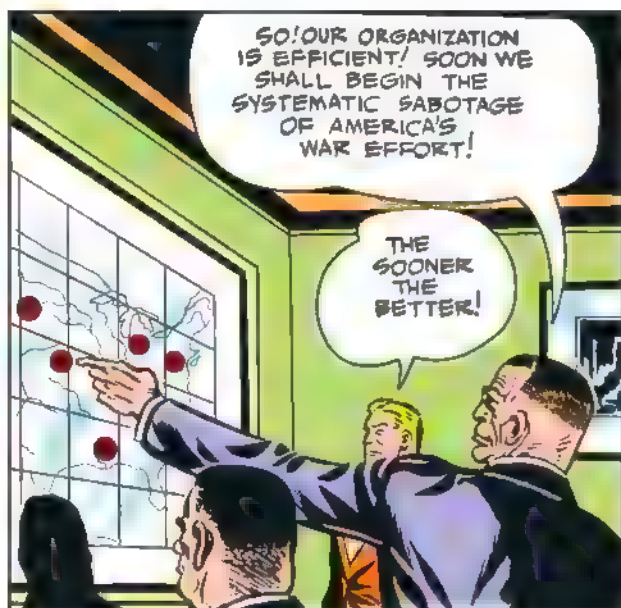
IN THE OUTER OFFICE, VETERAN CAMERAMEN MATT CARSON AND TOM STARR HEAR THE BIG NEWS...

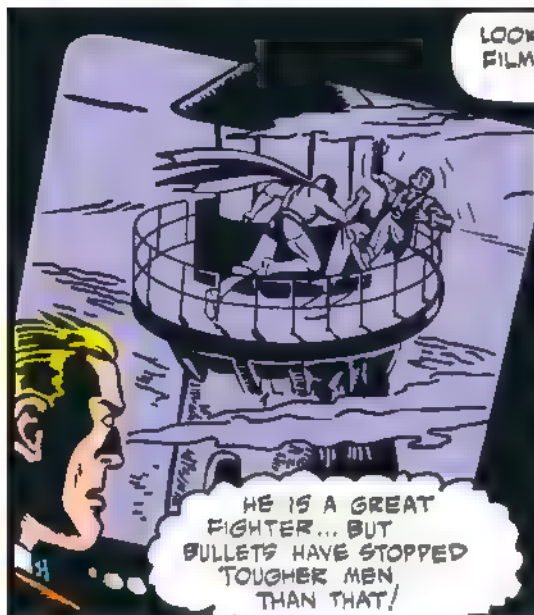


LATER... WEARING EXPRESSMAN'S CAPS BY WAY OF DISGUISE, THE RESOURCEFUL CAMERAMEN DELIVER A BULKY PACKAGE AT THE HOME OF J. PEERLESS MORTON...





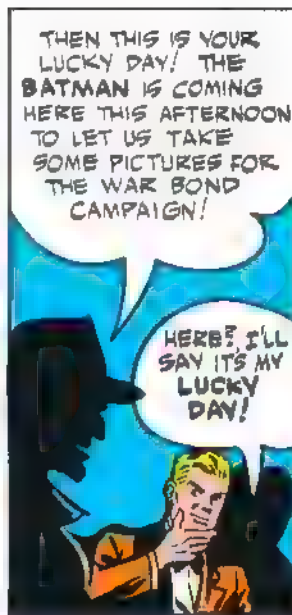




LOOKING OVER THE OLD FILMS IN THE FILES.
EH, FRED?

MATT AND I MADE THOSE PICTURES OF THE BATMAN MONTHS AGO!

WHY...UH...ER... THE BATMAN IS MY FAVORITE HERO! THAT'S WHY I RAN OFF THESE PICTURES!



THEN THIS IS YOUR LUCKY DAY! THE BATMAN IS COMING HERE THIS AFTERNOON TO LET US TAKE SOME PICTURES FOR THE WAR BOND CAMPAIGN!

HERE! I'LL SAY IT'S MY LUCKY DAY!



MINUTES LATER, THE NAZI SPYMASTER RECEIVES A PHONE CALL IN HIS SECRET OFFICE...

THE BATMAN? AH, FRITZ...YOU SHOULD RECEIVE THE IRON CROSS FOR THIS! I SHALL SEND OUR MOST DEPENDABLE ASSASSIN IMMEDIATELY!



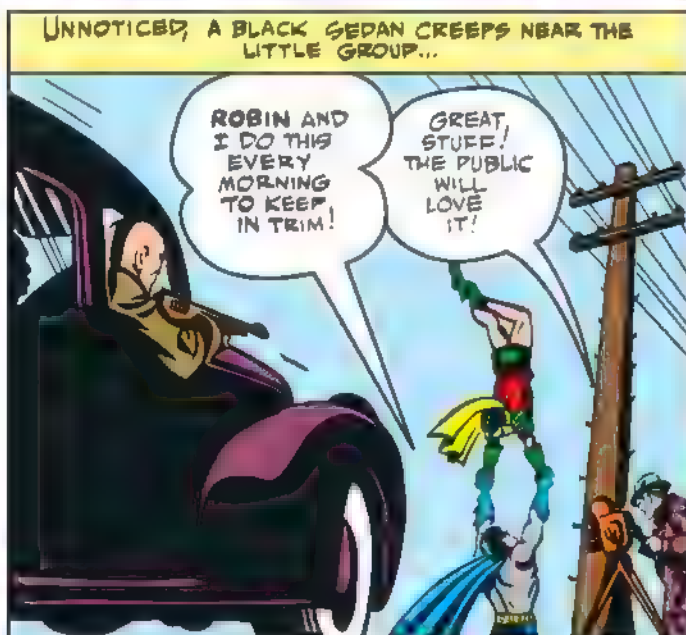
THAT AFTERNOON... A FAMOUS PAIR PREPARES TO AID THE NATION'S WAR EFFORT...

BATMAN...FRED HOPPER IS ONE OF YOUR MOST ARDENT ADMIRERS!

YOU DIDN'T PICK THE SAFEST JOB ON EARTH YOURSELF, HOPPER!

I'VE ALWAYS WONDERED HOW YOU'VE LIVED THROUGH CONSTANT DANGERS...

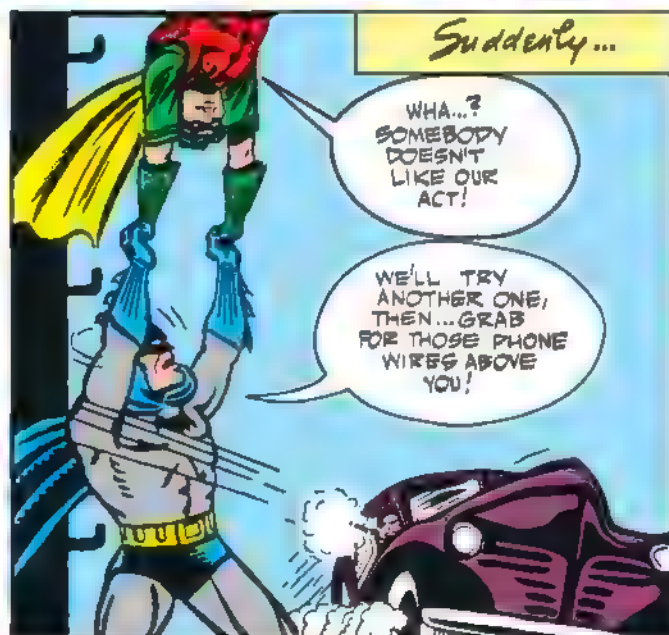
GOTHAM CITY NEWSREEL COMPANY



UNNOTICED, A BLACK SEDAN CREEPS NEAR THE LITTLE GROUP...

ROBIN AND I DO THIS EVERY MORNING TO KEEP IN TRIM!

GREAT STUFF! THE PUBLIC WILL LOVE IT!



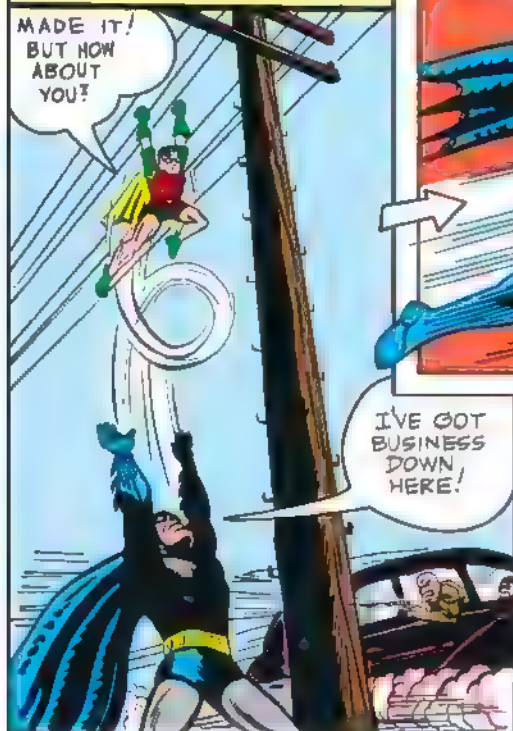
Suddenly...

WHA...? SOMEBODY DOESN'T LIKE OUR ACT!

WE'LL TRY ANOTHER ONE, THEN...GRAB FOR THOSE PHONE WIRES ABOVE YOU!

1 A MIGHTY HEAVE OF THE BATMAN'S BRAVNY SHOULDERS... AND ROBIN'S LITHE BODY SOARS INTO THE AIR, TWISTING...

MADE IT! BUT NOW ABOUT YOU?



I'VE GOT BUSINESS DOWN HERE!

2 YOU WON'T NEED THIS WHERE YOU'RE GOING!

KILL HIM, HANS, YOU FOOL!

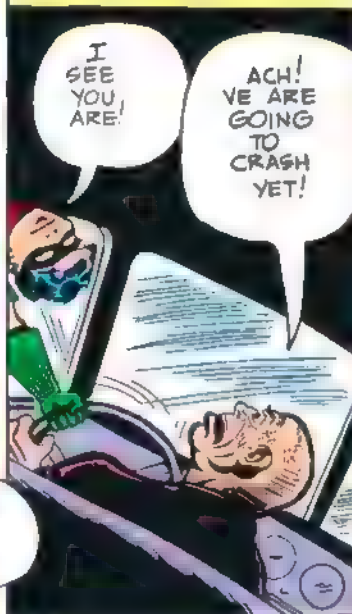
HIMMEL! IT ISS TOO LATE! STEP ON DER GAS!



4 REACHING DOWNWARD, THE BOY WONDER TUGS AT THE STEERING WHEEL, AND...

I SEE YOU ARE!

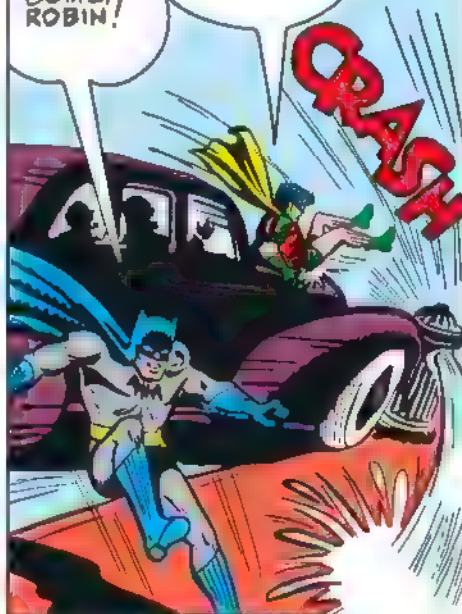
ACH! VE ARE GOING TO CRASH YET!



5 NICE GOING, ROBIN!

BUT THIS STOPPING IS PAINFUL!

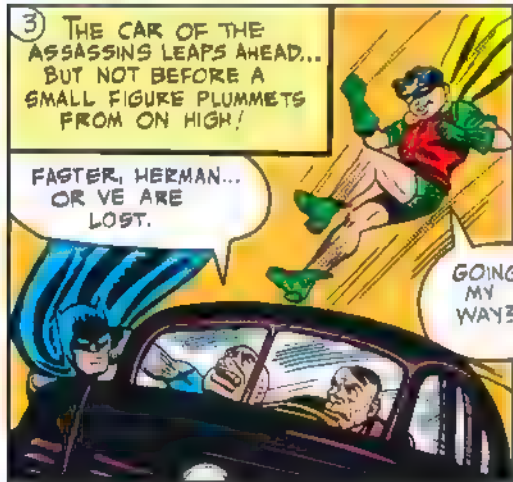
CRASH!



3 THE CAR OF THE ASSASSINS LEAPS AHEAD... BUT NOT BEFORE A SMALL FIGURE PLUMMETS FROM ON HIGH!

FASTER, HERMAN... OR VE ARE LOST.

GOING MY WAY?



THIS WILL RELAX YOU...

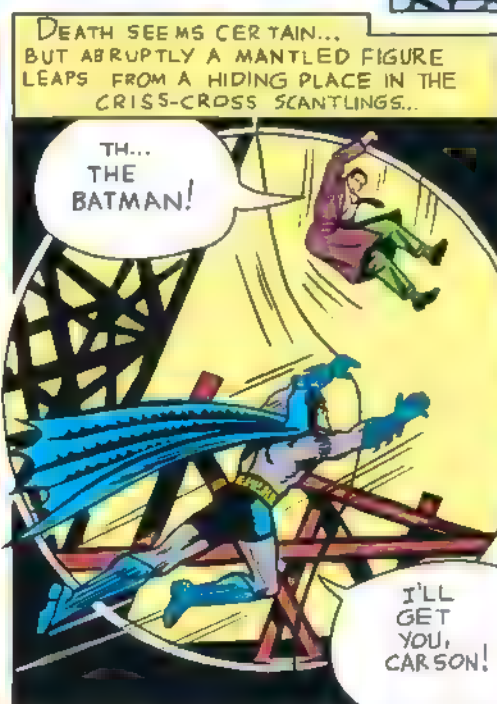
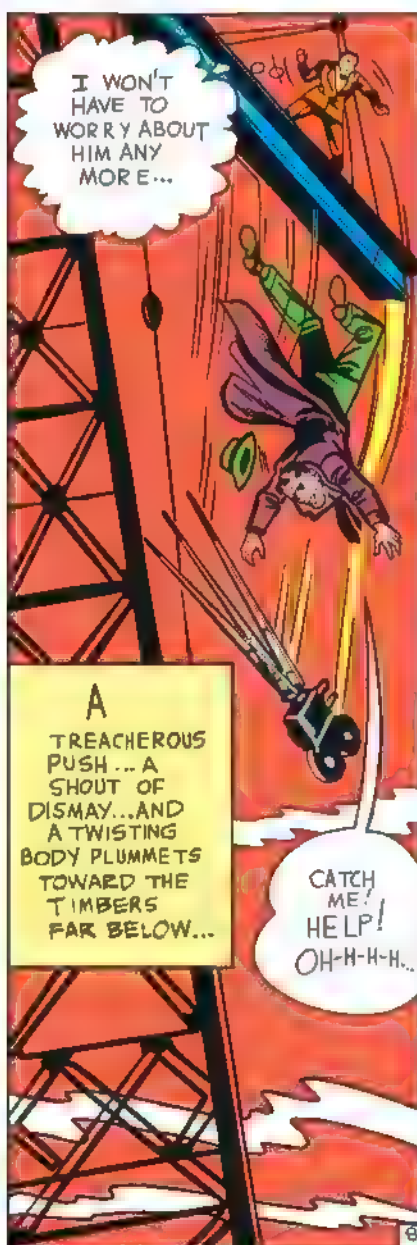
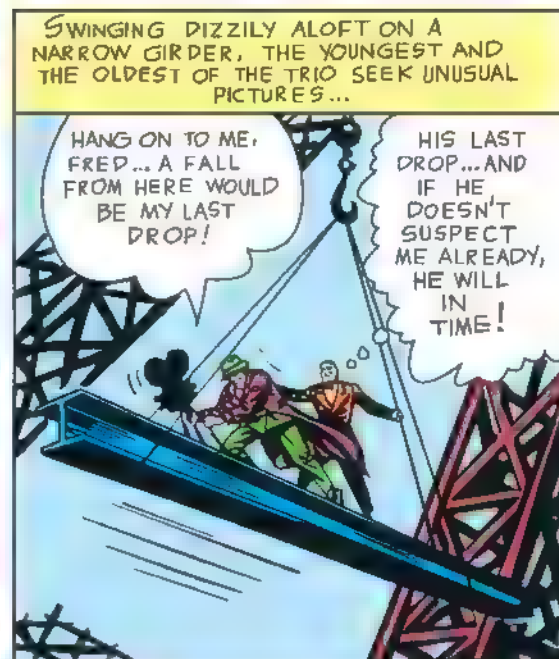
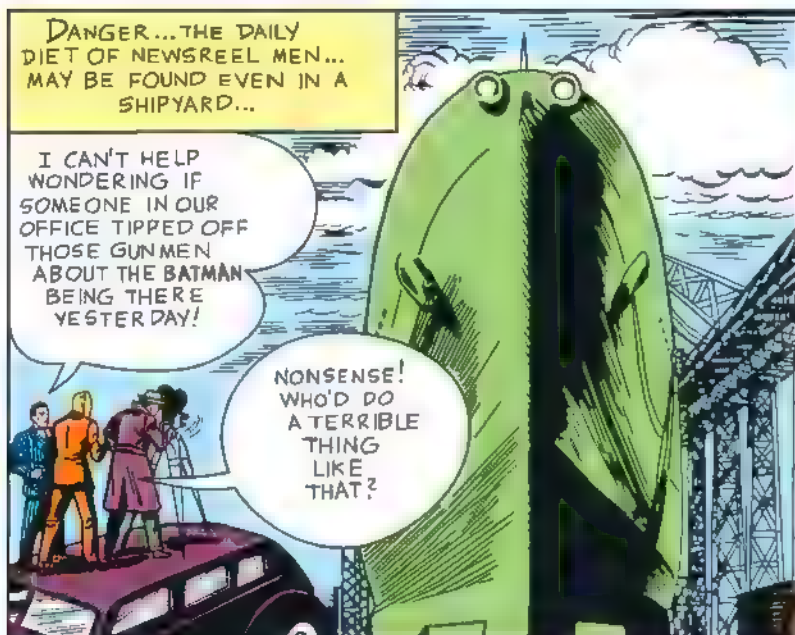
THE NEWSREEL SCOOP OF THE YEAR!



AND THIS WILL SNAP YOU OUT OF IT!

KAMERAD! VE SURRENDER! (GLUG!)





REGULATIONS REQUIRE THAT ALL FILMS OF WAR PRODUCTION BE CENSORED BEFORE SHOWING...

HERES EVERYTHING MY CAMERA GOT, CAPTAIN!

WE'LL DEVELOP AND CHECK THEM, AND SEND THEM TO YOUR OFFICE... EXCEPT FOR THE PARTS WE CUT OUT!



BUT AS SOON AS THE YOUNG NAZI AGENT IS ALONE...

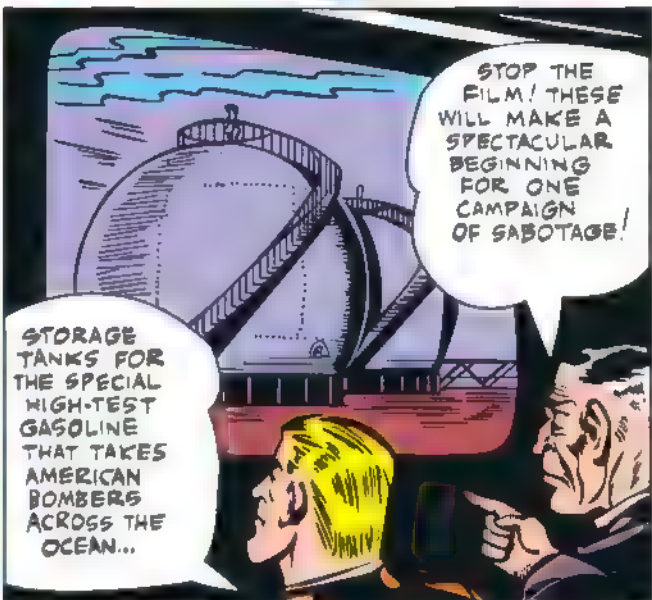
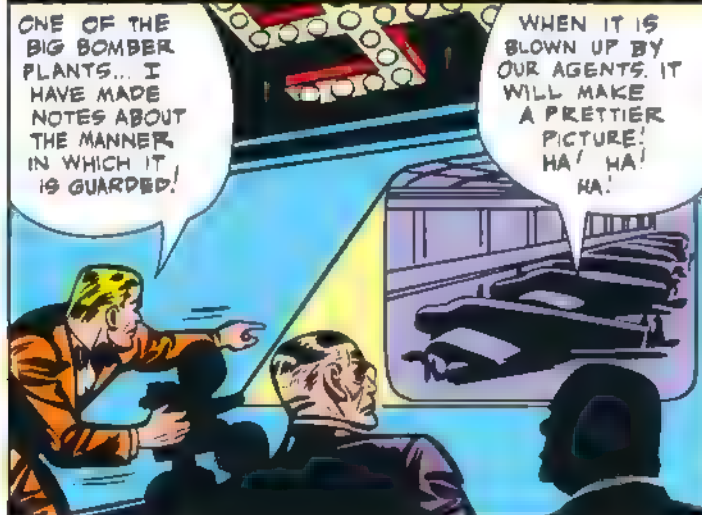
HOW EASY IT IS TO TRICK PEOPLE OF THESE TRUSTING DEMOCRACIES! IN THIS MINIATURE CAMERA ARE ALL THE PICTURES THE LARGER ONE TOOK... BUT UNCENSORED!



IN THE HEART OF THE ENEMY SPY WEB, A VERY PRIVATE SHOW TAKES PLACE...

ONE OF THE BIG BOMBER PLANTS... I HAVE MADE NOTES ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH IT IS GUARDED!

WHEN IT IS BLOWN UP BY OUR AGENTS, IT WILL MAKE A PRETTIER PICTURE! HA! HA! HA!



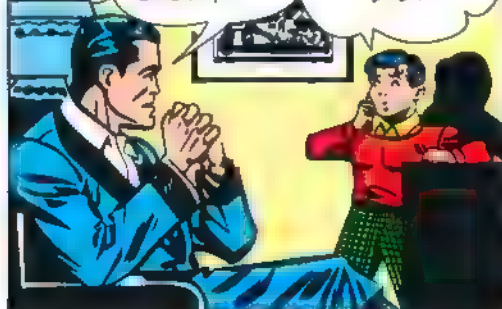
STOP THE FILM! THESE WILL MAKE A SPECTACULAR BEGINNING FOR ONE CAMPAIGN OF SABOTAGE!

STORAGE TANKS FOR THE SPECIAL HIGH-TEST GASOLINE THAT TAKES AMERICAN BOMBERS ACROSS THE OCEAN...

MEANWHILE, IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE AND HIS YOUNG WARD DICK GRAYSON, WHO IN REALITY ARE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN...

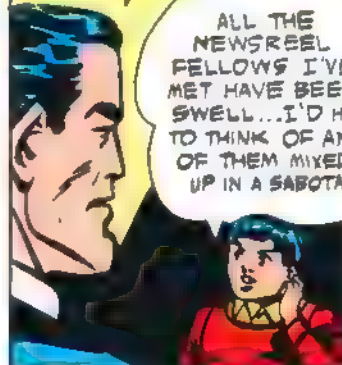
THOSE FELLOWS WHO TRIED TO KILL US WON'T TALK TO THE POLICE... BUT THERE'S NO DOUBT THEY'RE MEMBERS OF A NAZI SPY GROUP!

AND YOU STILL THINK SOMEONE IN THAT NEWSREEL OFFICE PUT US ON THE SPOT?



NO ONE ELSE KNEW WE WERE GOING TO BE THERE... THAT'S WHY WE'RE KEEPING AN EYE EVERY NIGHT ON THE PLACES THOSE CAMERAMEN HAVE VISITED!

ALL THE NEWSREEL FELLOWS I'VE MET HAVE BEEN SWELL... I'D HATE TO THINK OF ANY OF THEM MIXED UP IN A SABOTAGE!

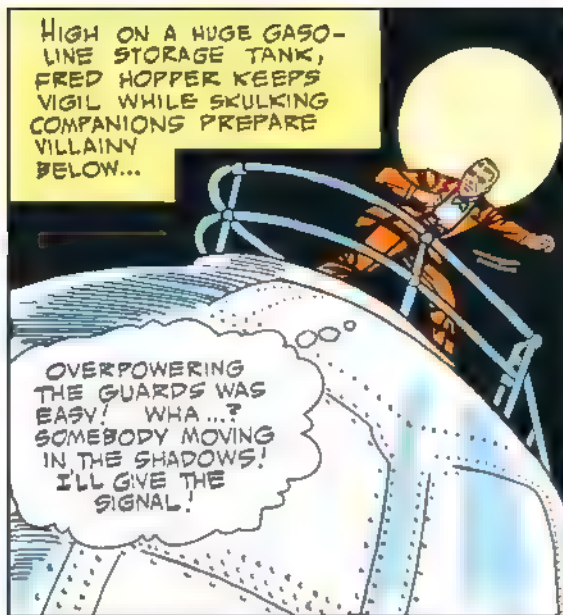


NIGHT... AND A SWIFT BLACK SHAPE STREAKS THROUGH THE INDUSTRIAL SUBURBS OF GOTHAM CITY... THE BATMOBILE...

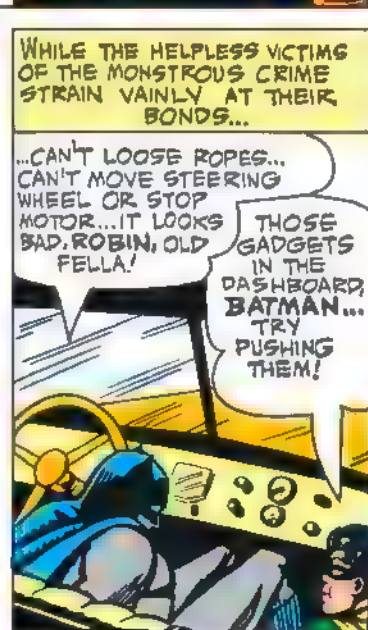
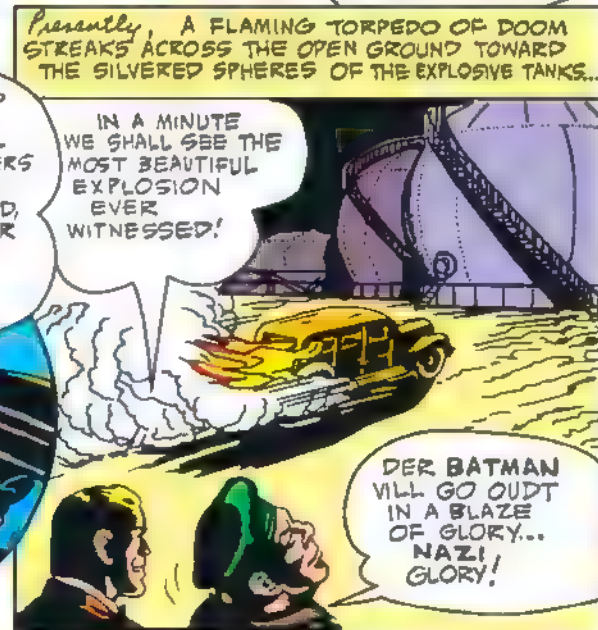
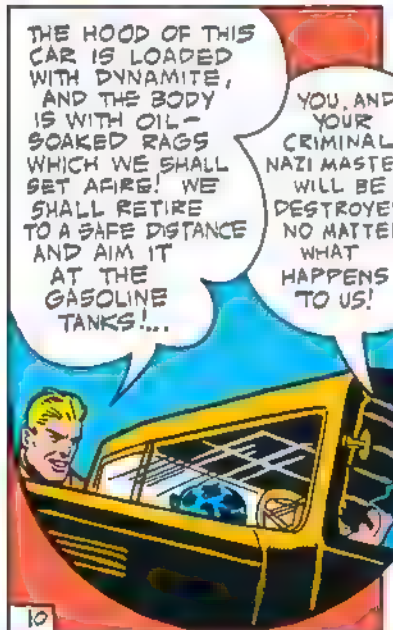
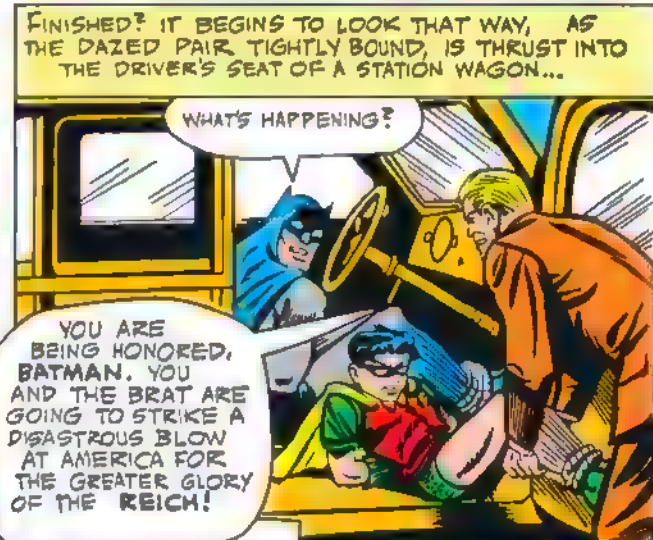
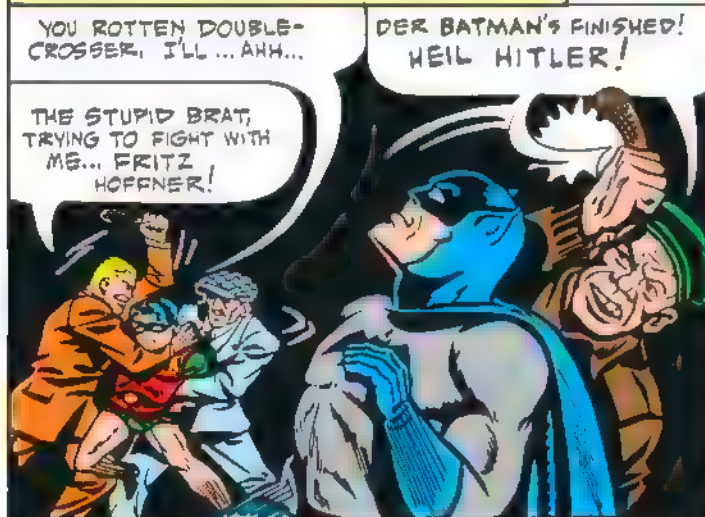
EVERYTHING'S UNDER CONTROL AT THE PLANE FACTORY AND SHIPYARDS. WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE?

YOU'LL SEE!





CLUBS RISE AND FALL SAVAGELY BEFORE THE SURPRISED HEROES CAN DEFEND THEMSELVES AND...



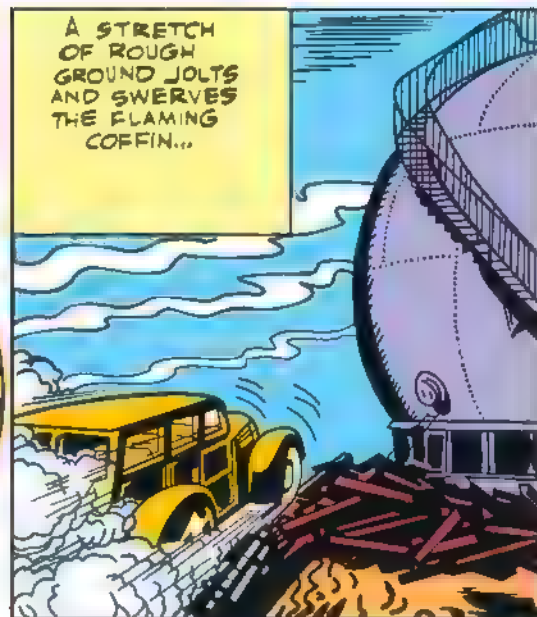


HURRY! WE'RE GOING TO CRASH IN A FEW SECONDS!

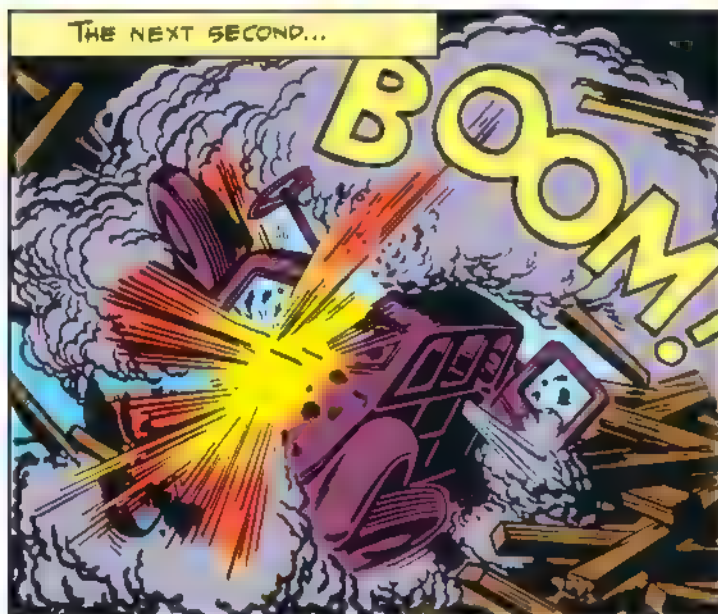
THIS MUST BE THE RIGHT ONE!

THE BATMAN'S TEETH CLOSE FIRMLY ON A KNOB... WITHDRAW IT... AND REVEAL THE GLOWING TIP OF A CIGARETTE LIGHTER...

IF ONLY THERE'S TIME TO BURN THROUGH MY ROPES BEFORE WE HIT!



A STRETCH OF ROUGH GROUND JOLTS AND SWERVES THE FLAMING COFFIN...



THE NEXT SECOND...

BOOM!

AS THE THUNDEROUS ECHOES OF THE BLAST DIE AWAY, THE SABOTEURS DEPART IN HASTE...

ACH...TOO BAD DER MACHINE TURNED UND EGGSPLODED ONLY A PILE OF RAILROAD TIES!

AT LEAST, WE'VE GOT RID OF THE BATMAN! FROM NOW ON WE CAN EXPECT COMPLETE SUCCESS WHENEVER WE STRIKE!



BUT THE TERRORISTS HAVE GLOATED TOO SOON...FOR A FLITTING SHADOW TRAILS THEIR CAR THROUGH THE CITY STREETS...

THAT'S THE CLOEEST SHAVE I EVER WANT TO HAVE! WE GOT OUT OF THAT RUBBER-TIRED TORPEDO JUST IN TIME!

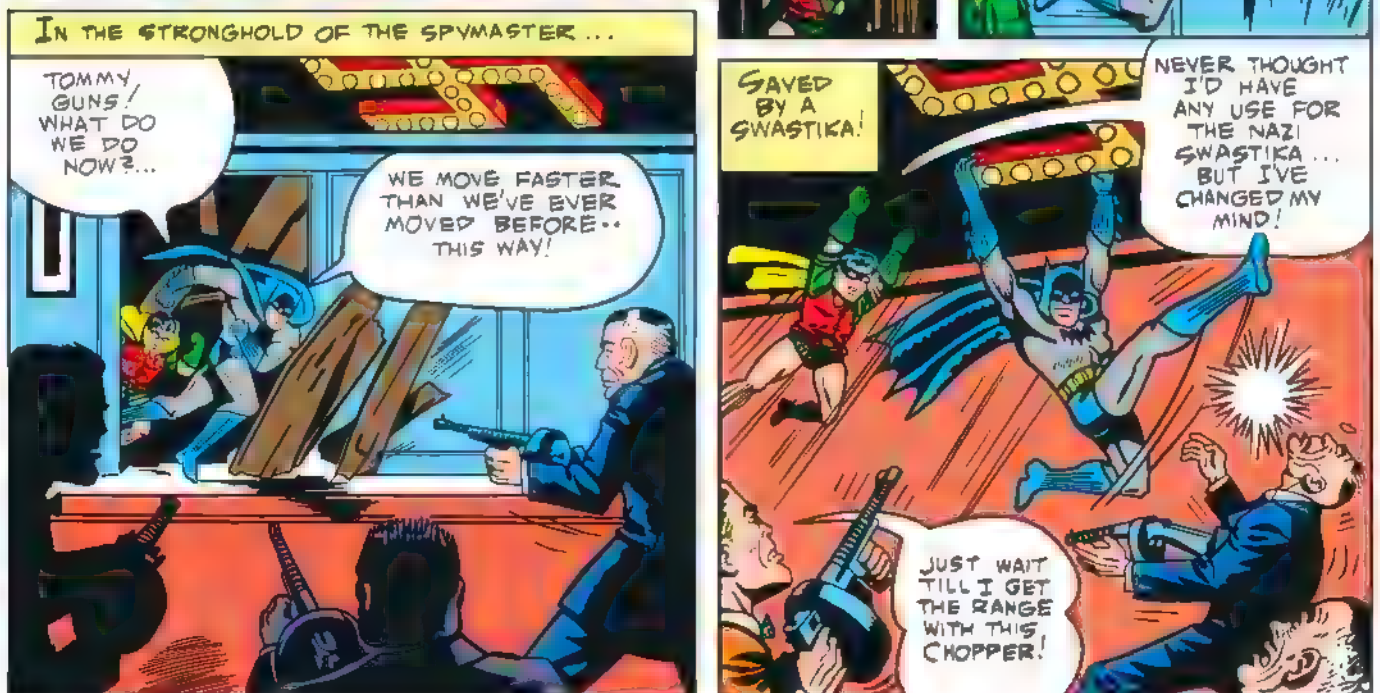
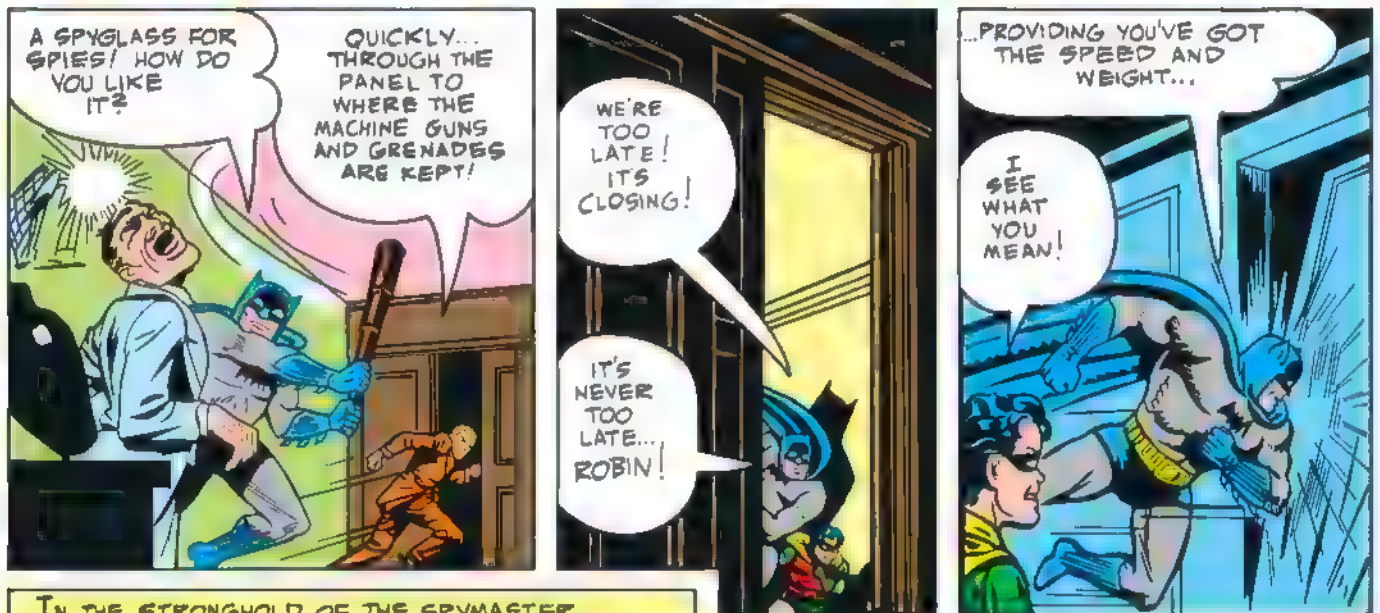
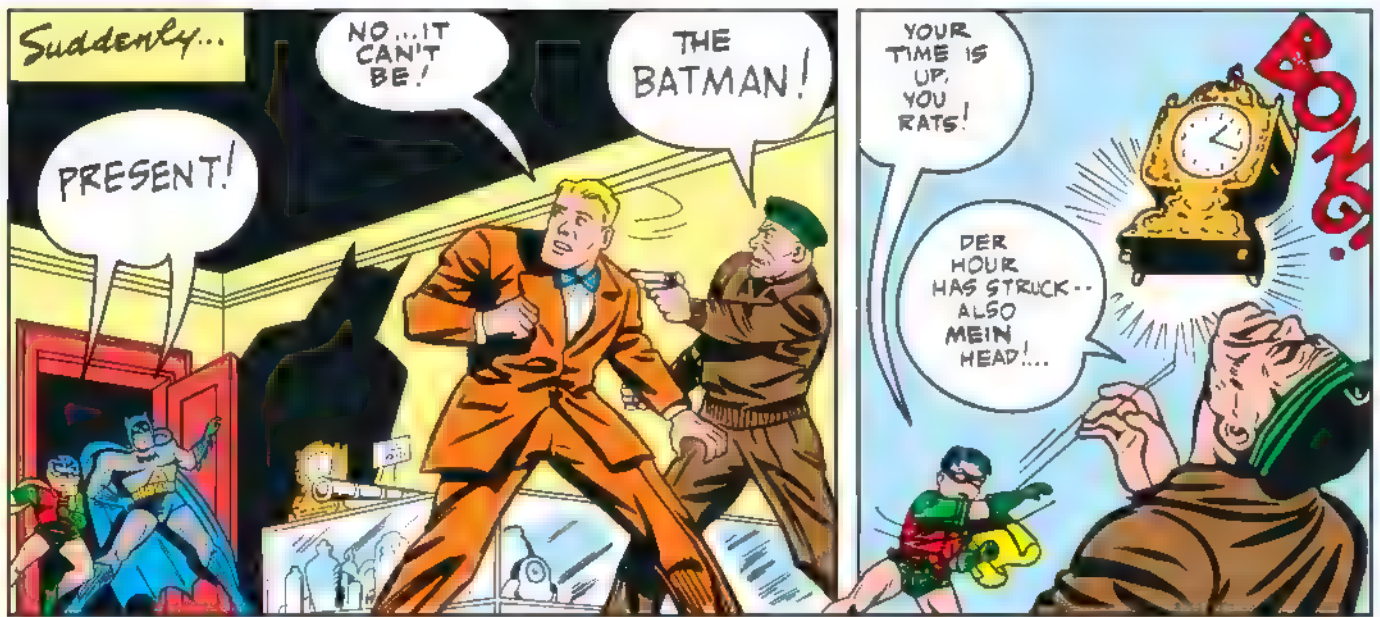
LOOK- THEY'RE STOPPING THEIR CAR NEAR THAT ANTIQUE SHOP!

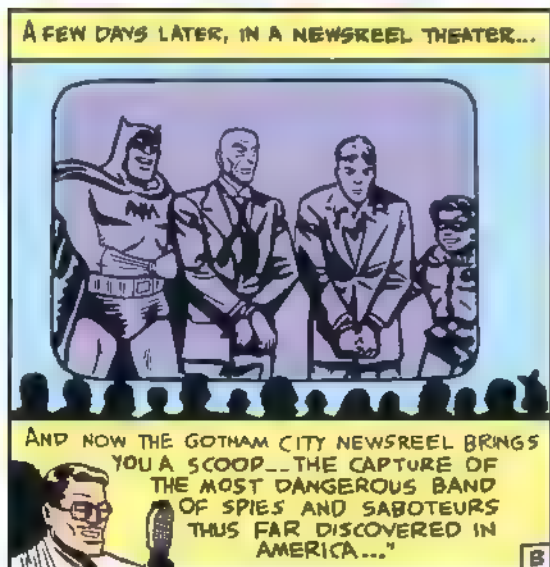
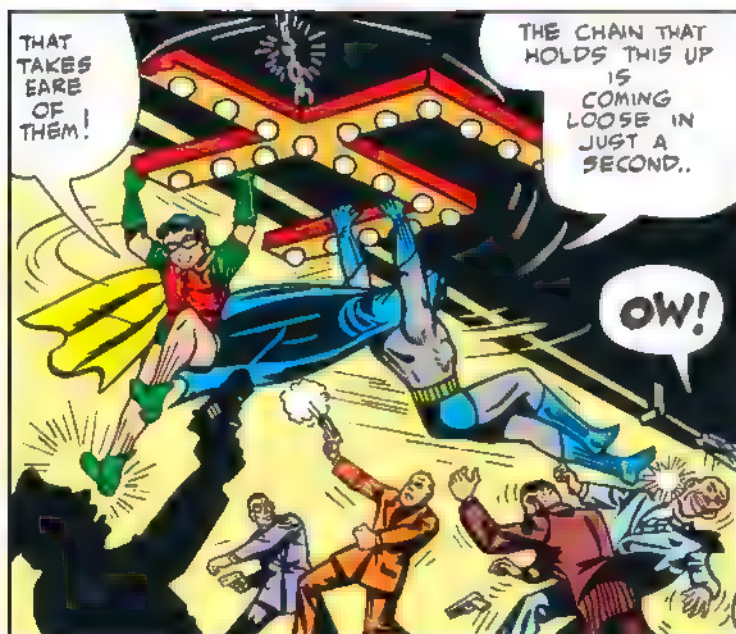


I CAN TELL BY YOUR FACE THAT IT IS GOOD NEWS THIS TIME, HERR HOFFNER!

THE BEST! FROM NOW ON WE HAVE NOTHING TO FEAR! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE...

ANTIQUE SHOP





BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

-THE BOY WONDER-

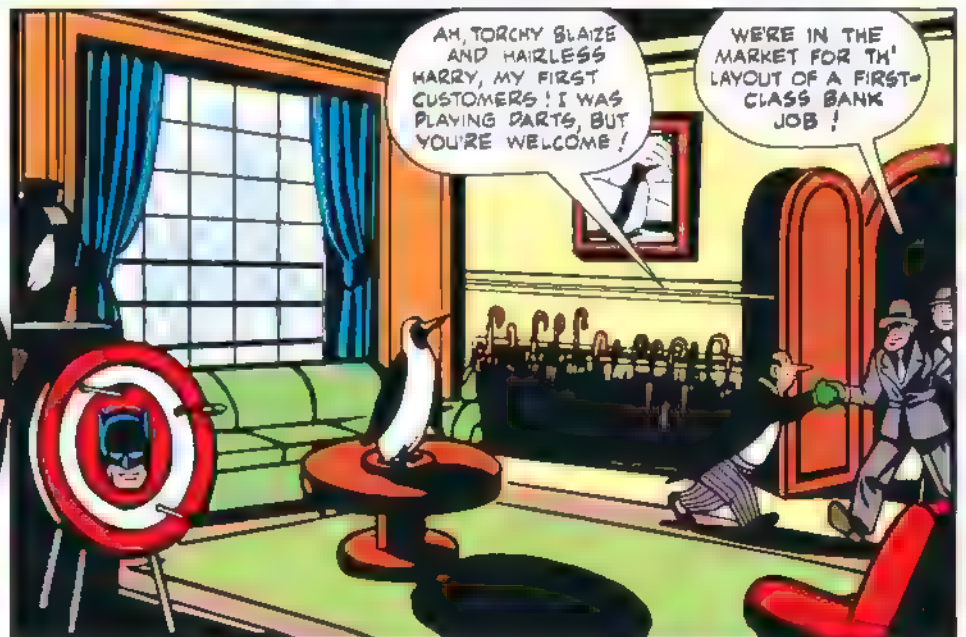
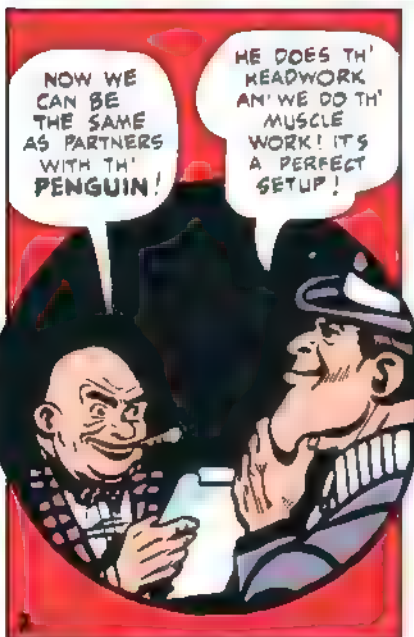
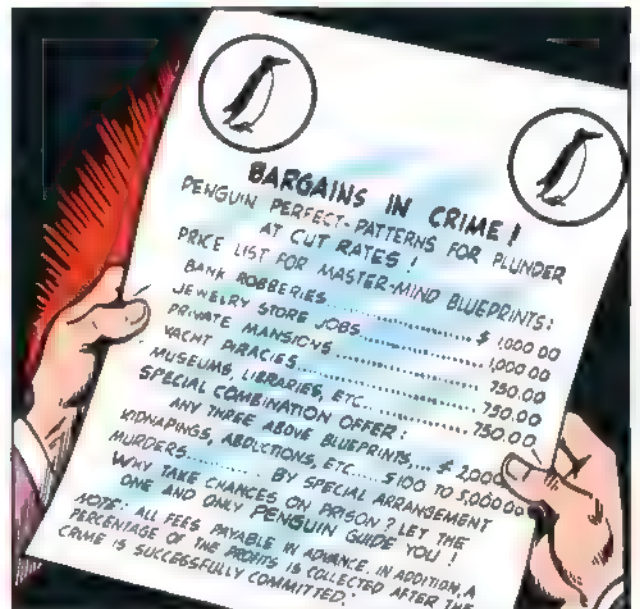
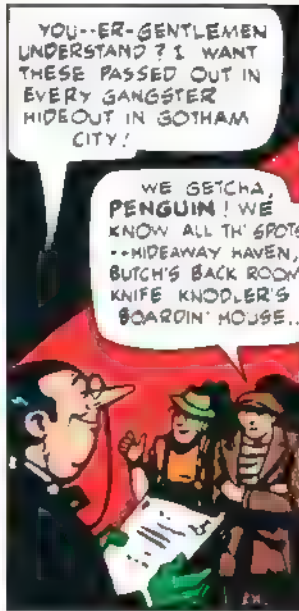
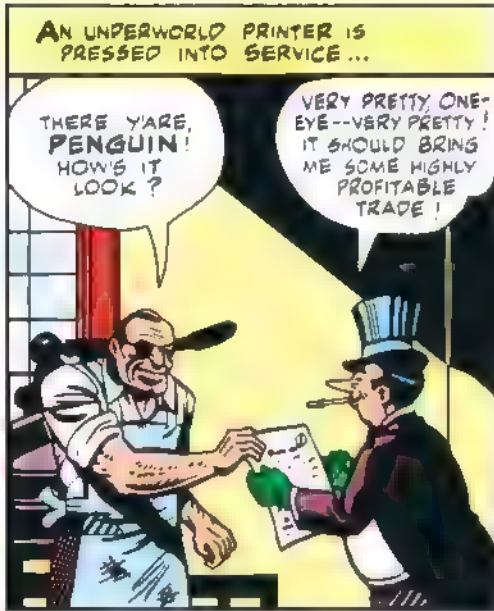
YOU CAN'T GO WRONG
WITH A PENGUIN PERFECT-
CRIME PLOT!...

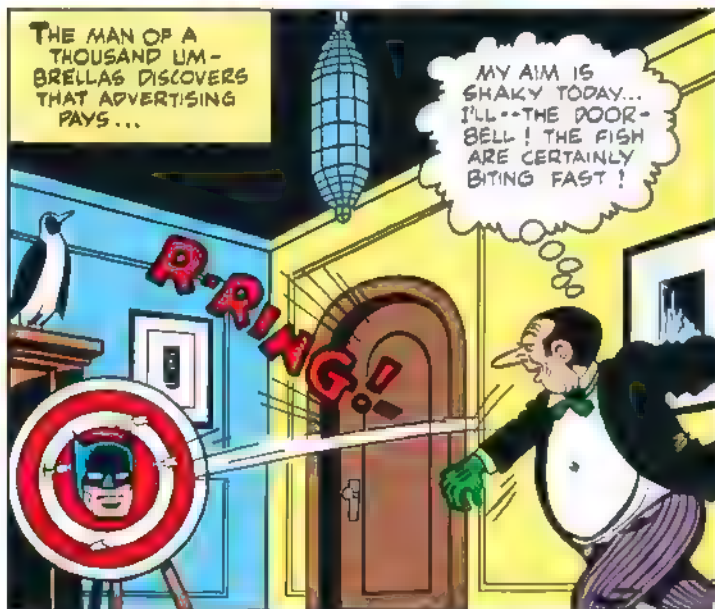
OR CAN YOU?

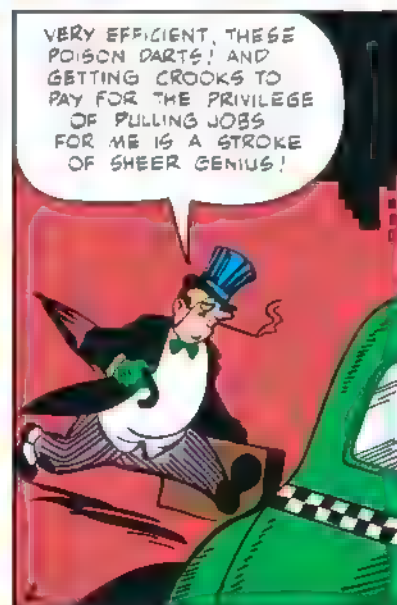
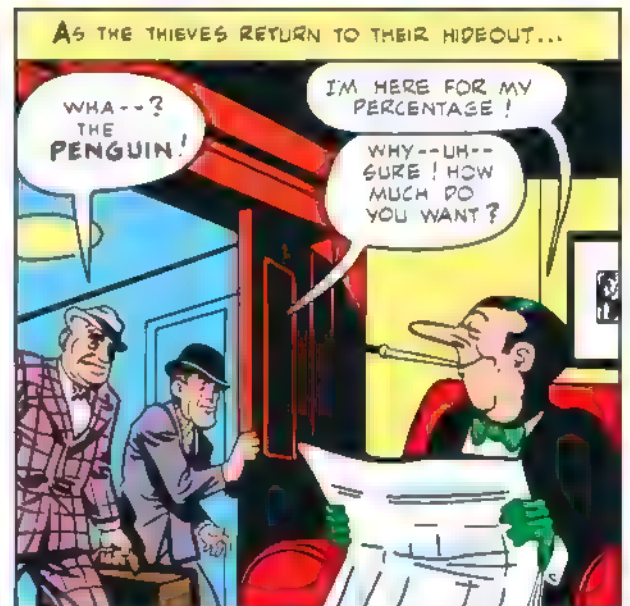
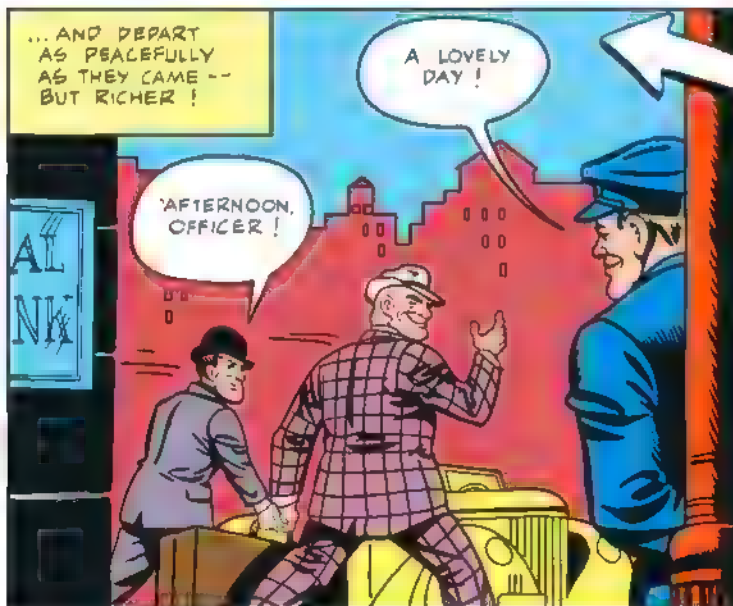
ONCE AGAIN THAT DROLL BUT
DEADLY BIRD OF ILL-OMEN, THE
PENGUIN, TURNS HIS CUNNING
CRIMINAL TALENTS TO THE PROBLEM
OF GETTING THE GREATEST POSSIBLE
GAIN FROM THE LEAST POSSIBLE
EFFORT--AND BRINGS FORTH AS
DIABOLICAL A SCHEME AS WAS EVER
CONCEIVED IN THE UNDERWORLD!
AND IT WORKS LIKE A CHARM...
UNTIL THOSE AWESOME ARCH-
ENEMIES OF ALL CUNNING SCHEMERS
--THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**--
SET UP A THRIVING LITTLE BUSINESS
IN OPPOSITION TO THE SHREWD
VENDOR OF VILLAINY!

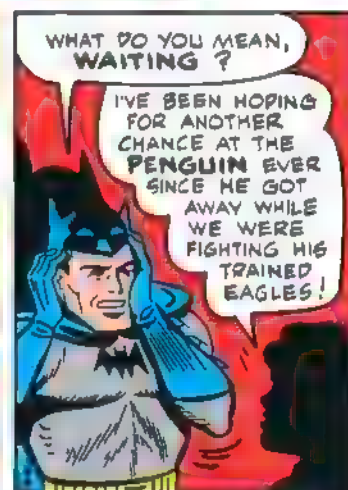
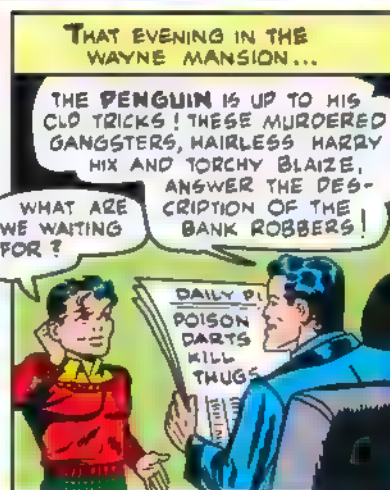
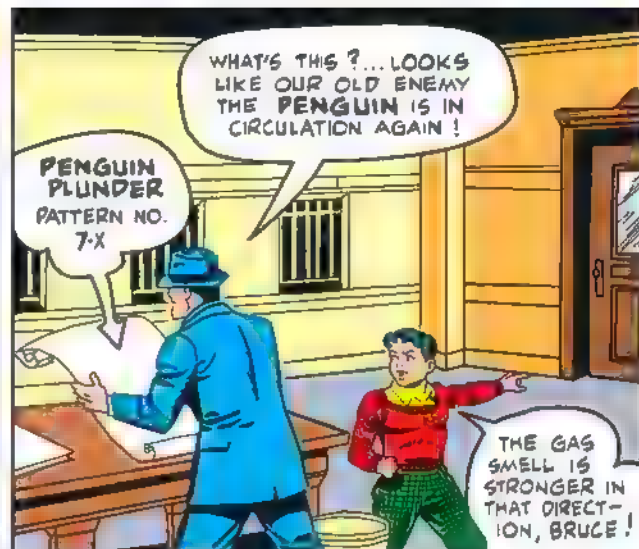
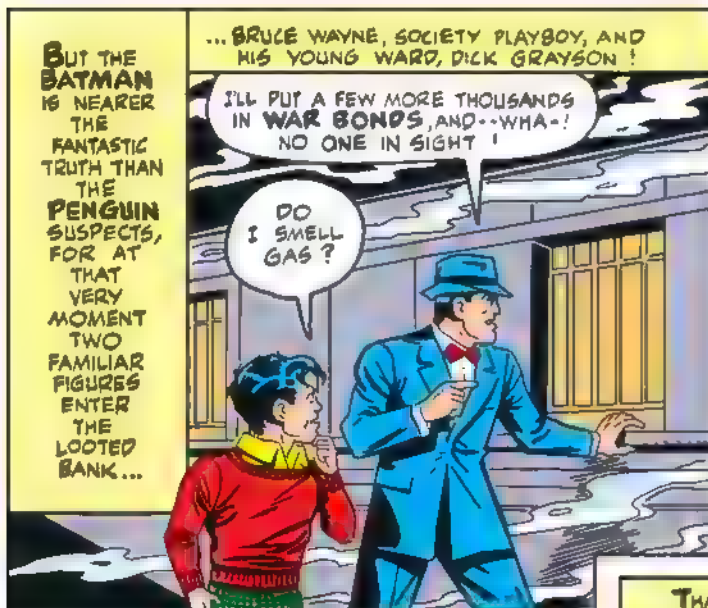
THIS IS THE AMAZING STORY OF
A MAN WHO OFFERED...CRIMES FOR
SALE! YOU'LL READ ABOUT IT IN -
"BARGAINS IN BANDITRY!"











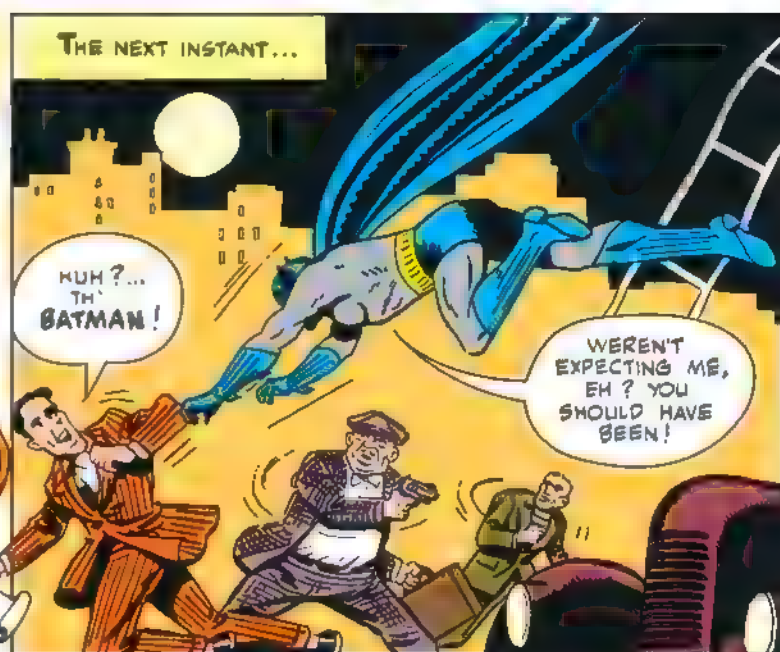
AS THE BATPLANE HOVERS ON ITS SILENT AUTOGIRO BLADES, A ROPE LADDER PROPS TOWARD THE UNSUSPECTING OUTLAWS...



SWEETEST JOB I EVER WORKED ON!

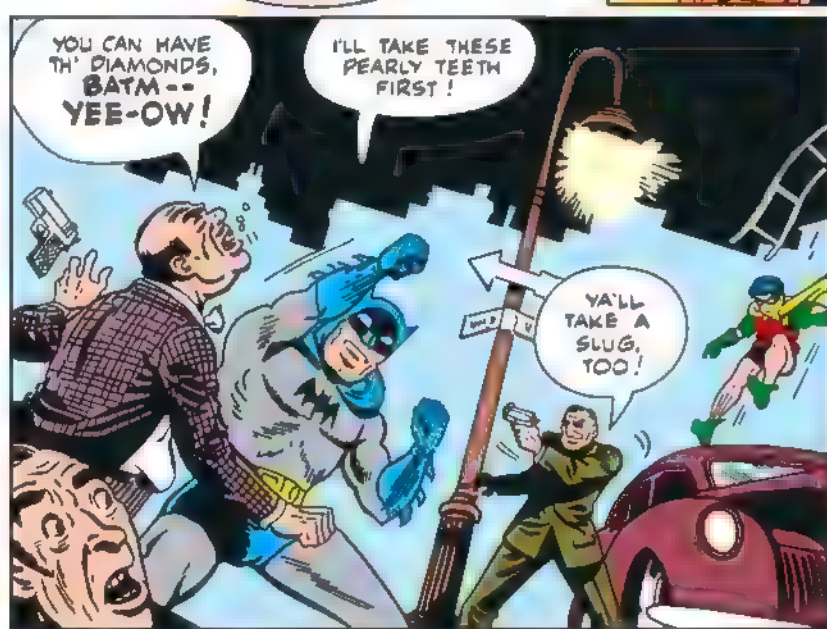
SAFE, TOO! NOT A CHANCE OF ANY-BODY MAKIN' TROUBLE NOW!

THE NEXT INSTANT...



HUH?... TH' BATMAN!

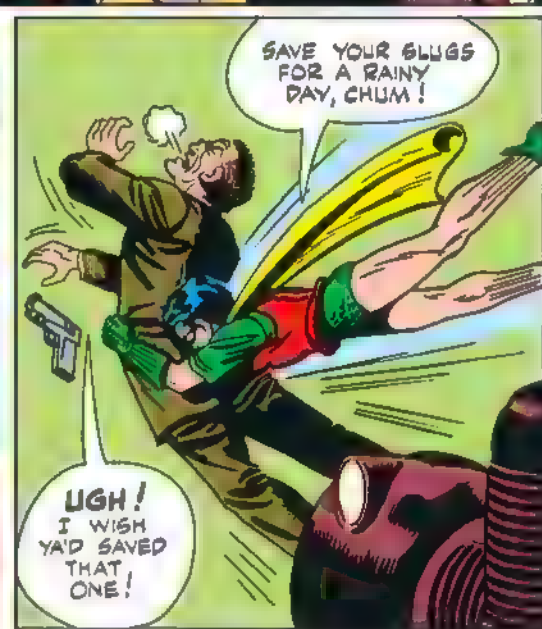
WEREN'T EXPECTING ME, EH? YOU SHOULD HAVE BEEN!



YOU CAN HAVE TH' DIAMONDS, BATM-- YEE-OW!

I'LL TAKE THESE PEARLY TEETH FIRST!

Y'LL TAKE A SLUG, TOO!



SAVE YOUR SLUGS FOR A RAINY DAY, CHUM!

UGH! I WISH Y'AD SAVED THAT ONE!

BUT THE CUNNING BRAIN OF THE PENGUIN HAS FORESEEN EVEN SUCH HAZARDS AS THIS!



HERE IT IS... "IF ATTACKED DURING GETAWAY, FIRST GRAB THE LOOT, THEN --"



YOUR TURN NEXT, ELMER!

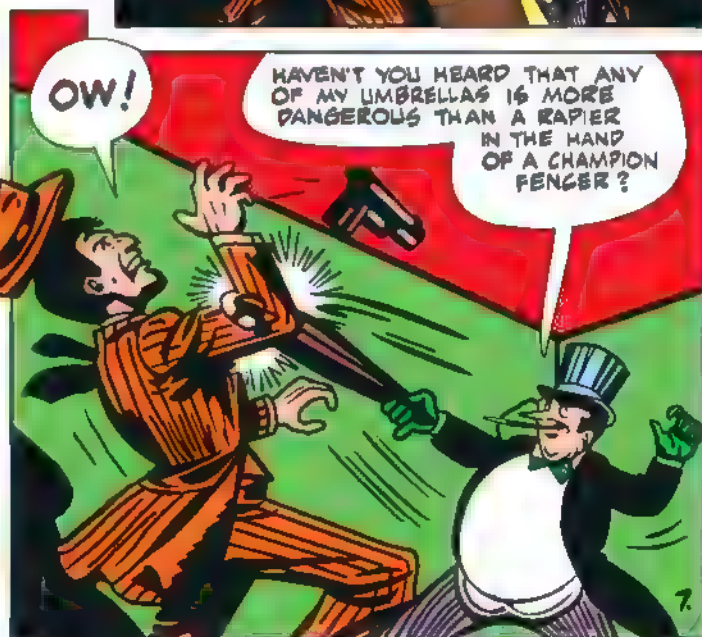
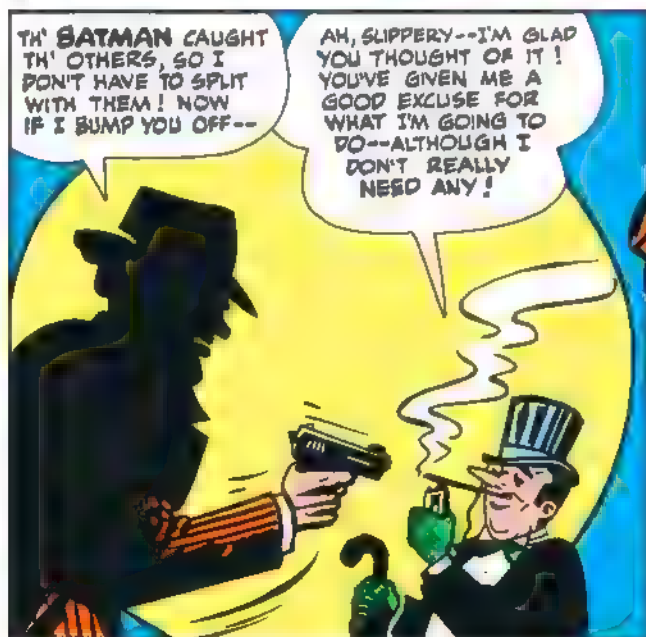
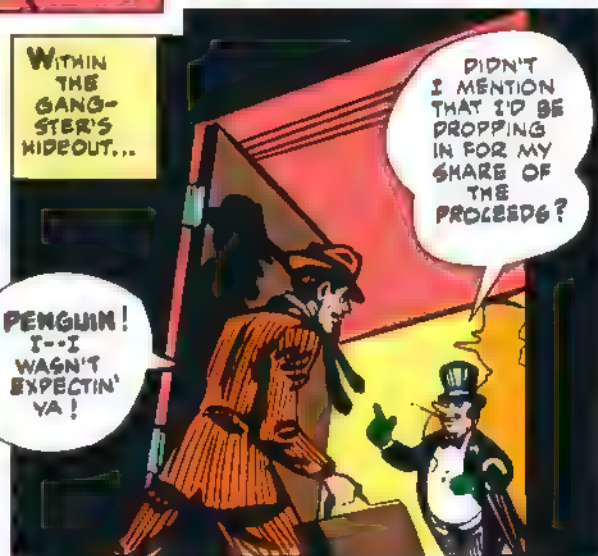
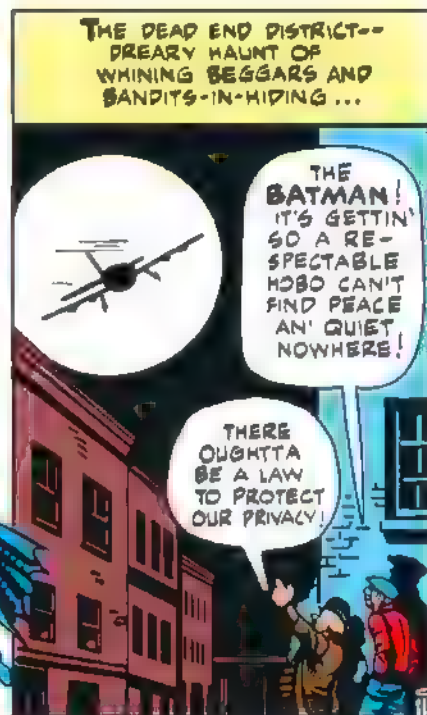
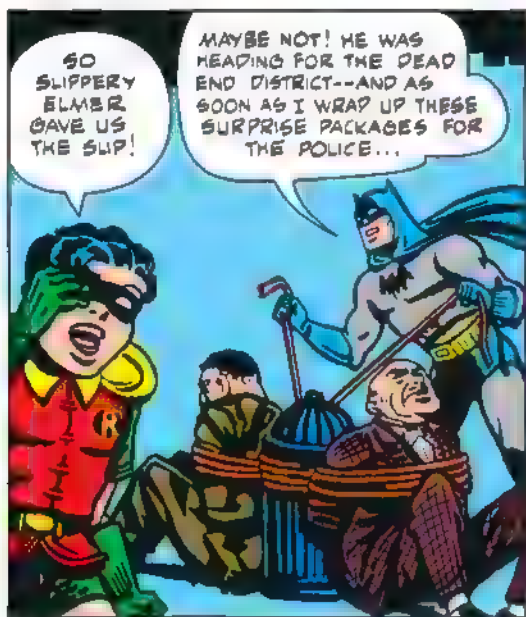
WANNA BET MONEY ON THAT?

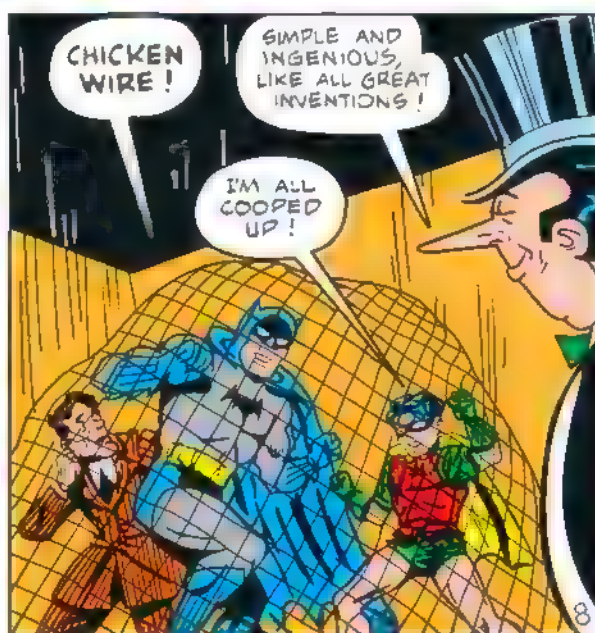
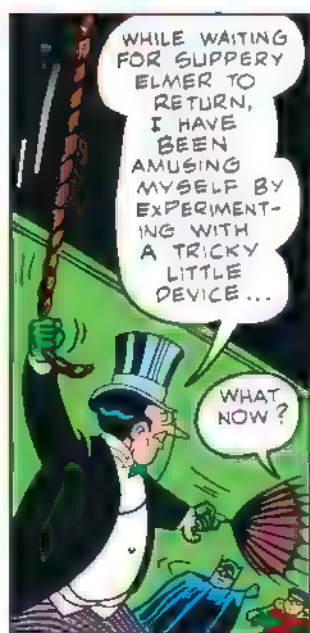
OH, OH-- I THINK I'M GOING TO CRY!



AN OLD TRICK, BUT IT'S STILL GOOD! SO LONG, CHUMPS!

TEAR GAS!

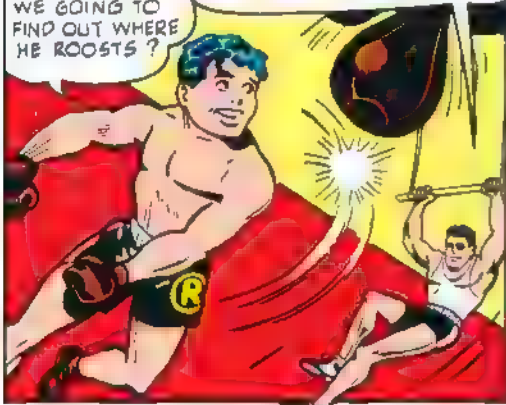




HAVING DISENTANGLED THEMSELVES AND DELIVERED SLIPPERY ELMER TO THE POLICE, THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** RESUME THEIR EVERYDAY IDENTITIES...

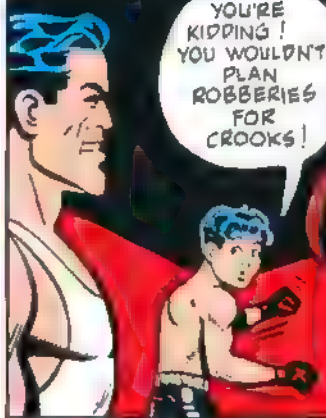
I'M IN TIP-TOP SHAPE FOR THE **PENGUIN**-- BUT HOW ARE WE GOING TO FIND OUT WHERE HE ROOSTS?

WE'LL MAKE HIM COME TO US, DICK! NOTHING WORRIES A MAN WITH SOMETHING TO SELL SO MUCH AS COMPETITION.



...SO I'M GOING TO START SELLING CRIME PLANS IN OPPOSITION TO HIM!

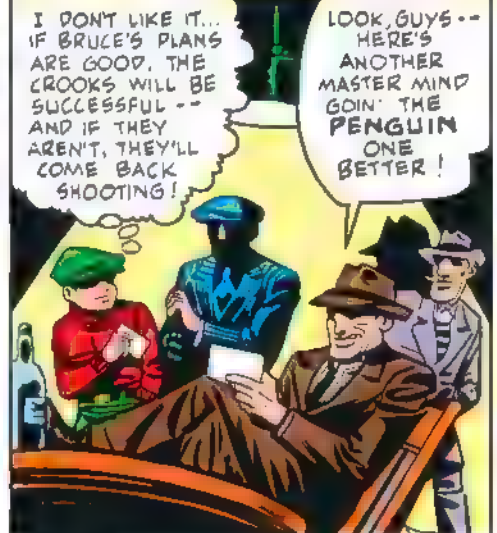
YOU'RE KIDDING! YOU WOULDN'T PLAN ROBBERIES FOR CROOKS!



KIDDING? IT DOESN'T LOOK THAT WAY--FOR NEXT DAY, IN A RENDEZ-VOUS FOR CRIMINALS...

I DON'T LIKE IT... IF BRUCE'S PLANS ARE GOOD, THE CROOKS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL-- AND IF THEY AREN'T, THEY'LL COME BACK SHOOTING!

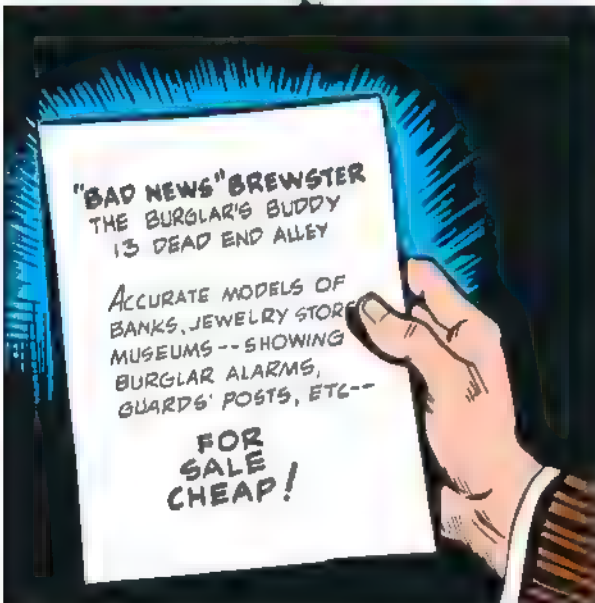
LOOK, GUYS-- HERE'S ANOTHER MASTER MIND GOIN' THE **PENGUIN** ONE BETTER!



"BAD NEWS" BREWSTER
THE BURGLAR'S BUDDY
13 DEAD END ALLEY

ACCURATE MODELS OF
BANKS, JEWELRY STORES,
MUSEUMS-- SHOWING
BURGLAR ALARMS,
GUARDS' POSTS, ETC--

FOR
SALE
CHEAP!



AT 13 DEAD
END ALLEY...

YOU'RE THE
TOUGHEST
LOOKING BIRD IN
THE NEIGHBORHOOD
IN THAT DISGUISE,
BRUCE!

PIPE DOWN,
PARDNER--
SOMEONE'S
COMING!



I'M GLITTER GLEASON, THE BEST JEWEL THIEF IN THE BUSINESS! THERE ARE SOME NIFTY GEMS IN THE PERSIAN ROOM AT THE COSMOPOLITAN MUSEUM...

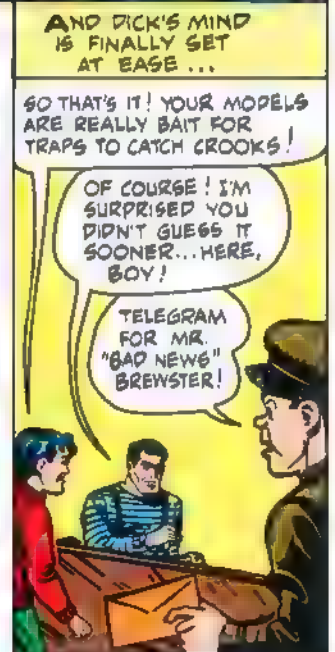
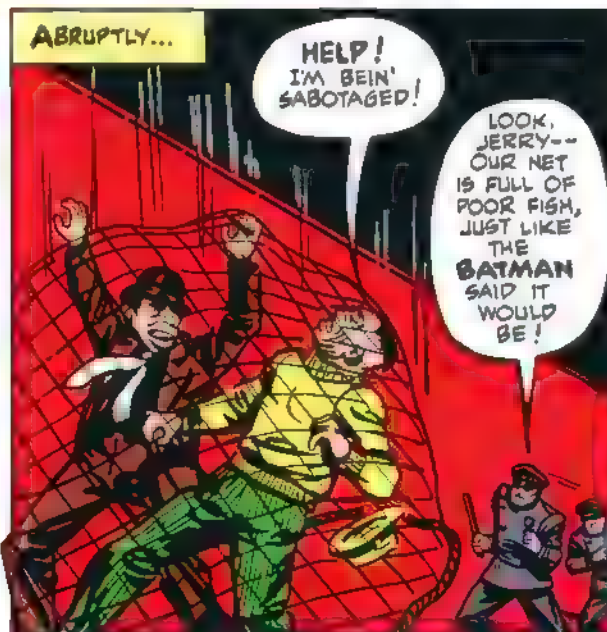
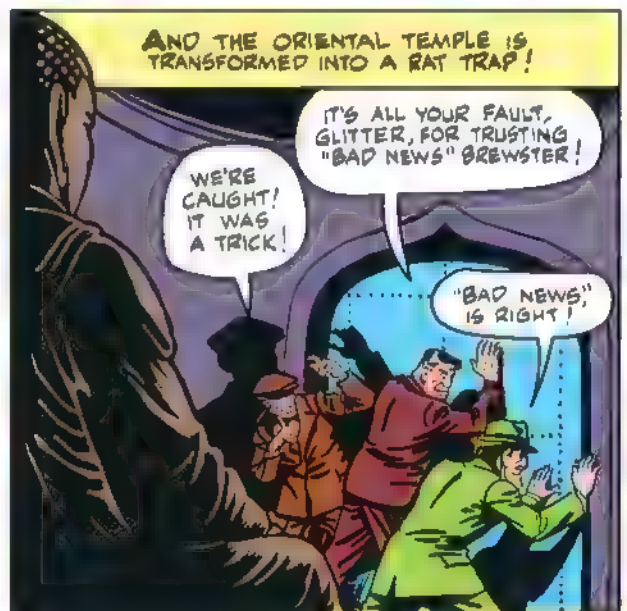
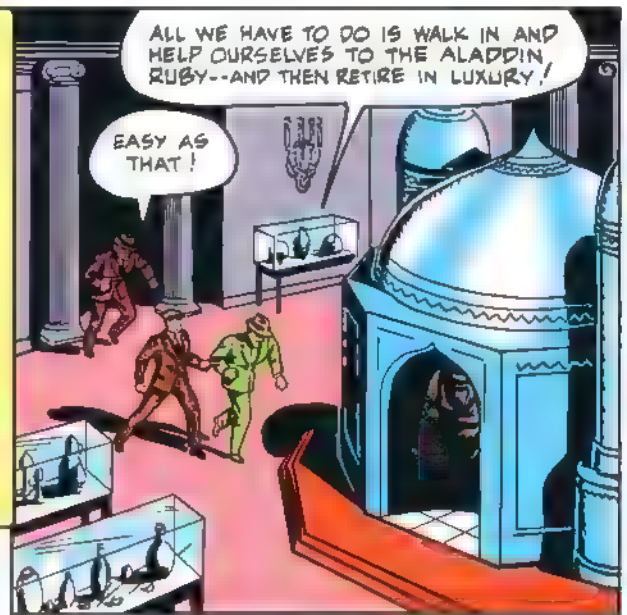
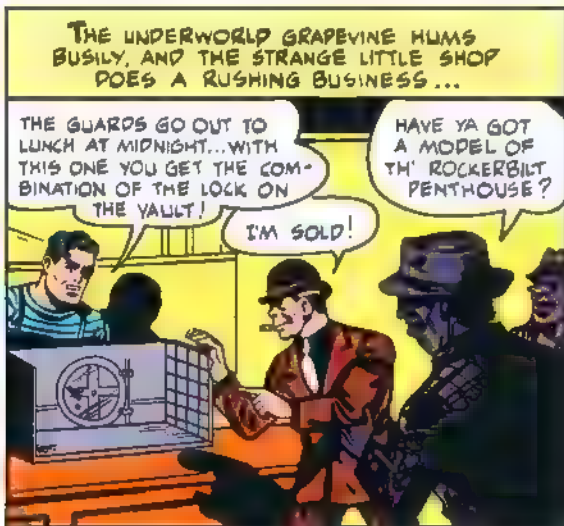
SAY NO MORE, GLITTER... I HAVE EXACTLY WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

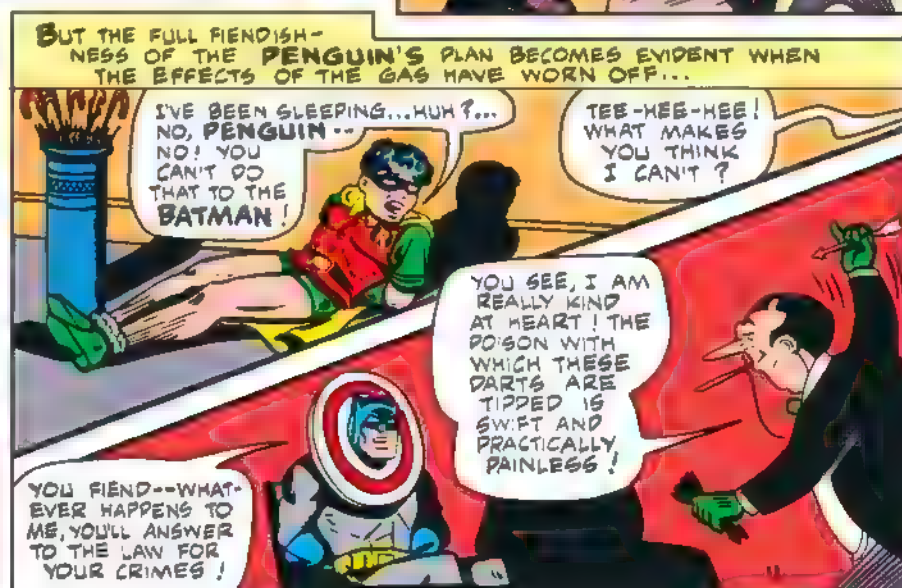
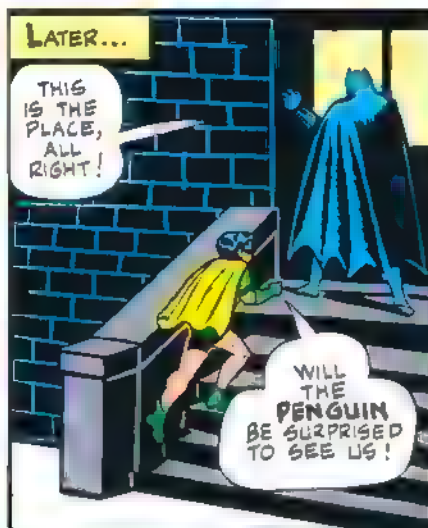
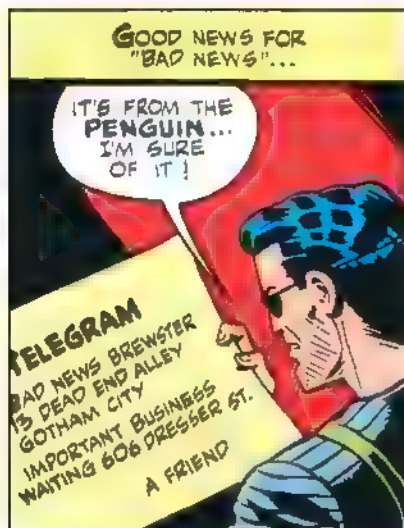


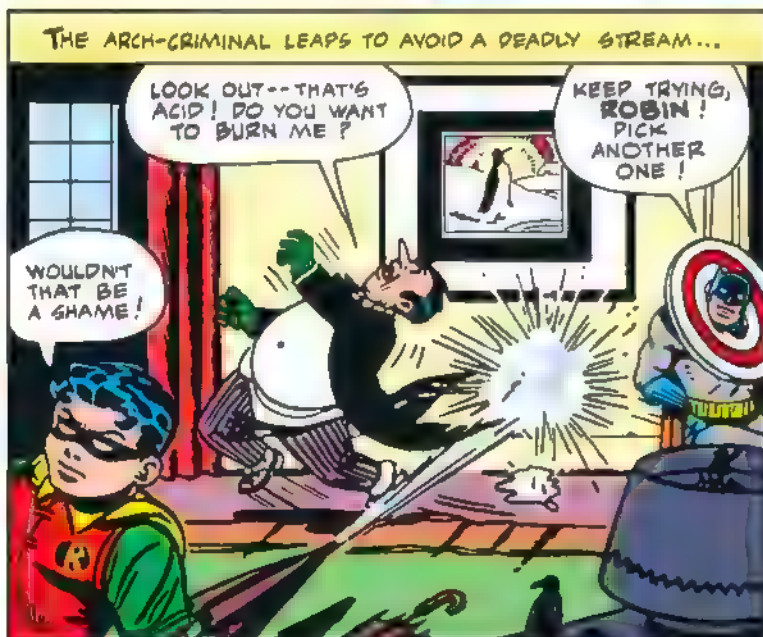
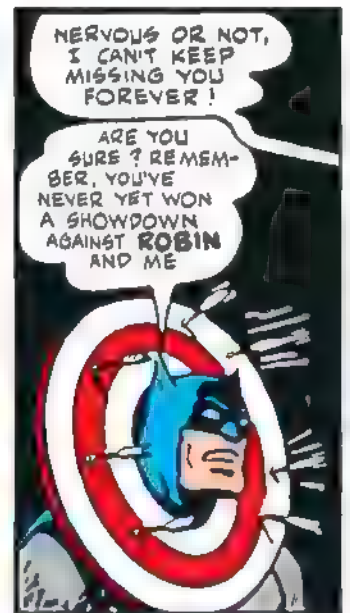
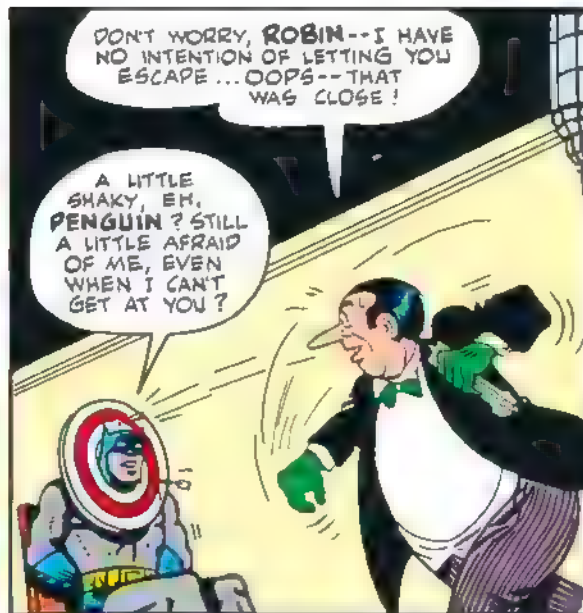
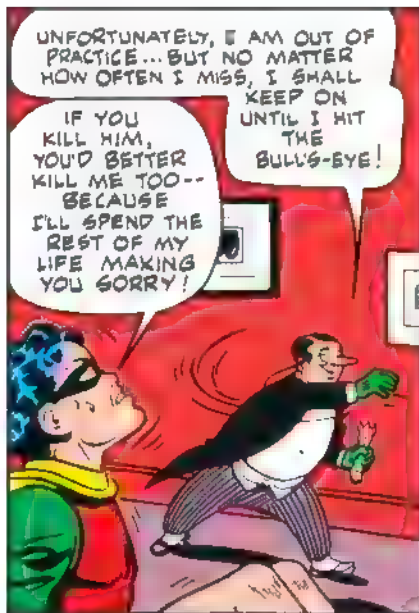
AS YOU KNOW, THE FAMOUS ALADDIN RUBY IS IN THE FOREHEAD OF THE IDOL IN THIS TEMPLE... AT THIS POINT IS A HIDDEN BURGLAR ALARM... THE WATCHMAN PASSES THROUGH EVERY HOUR ON THE HOUR!

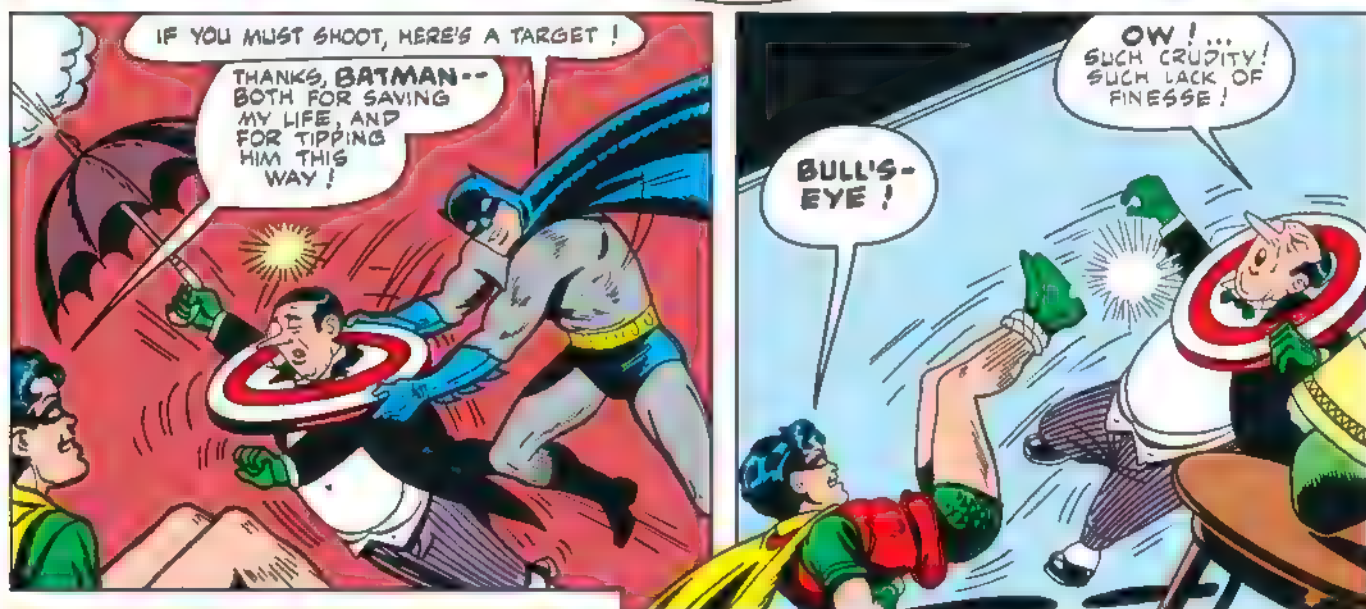
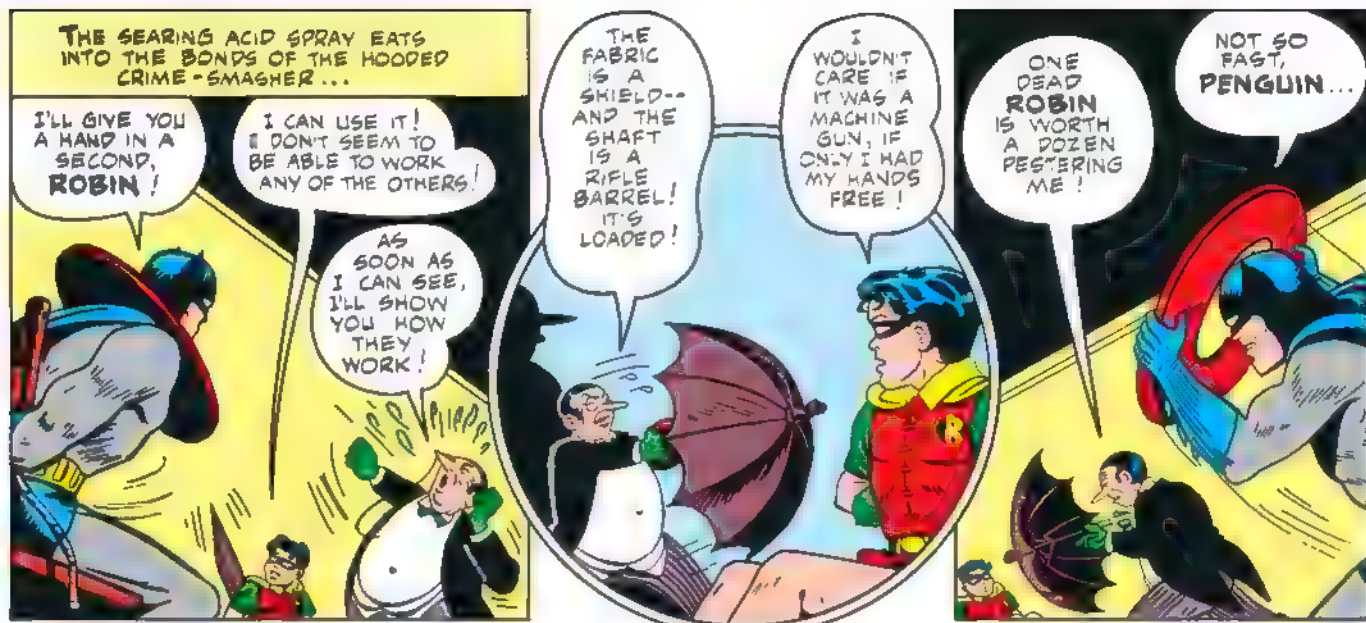
SWELL! I'LL BUY THIS! NAME YOUR PRICE!













No. 71

Featuring the **BOY COMMANDOS**



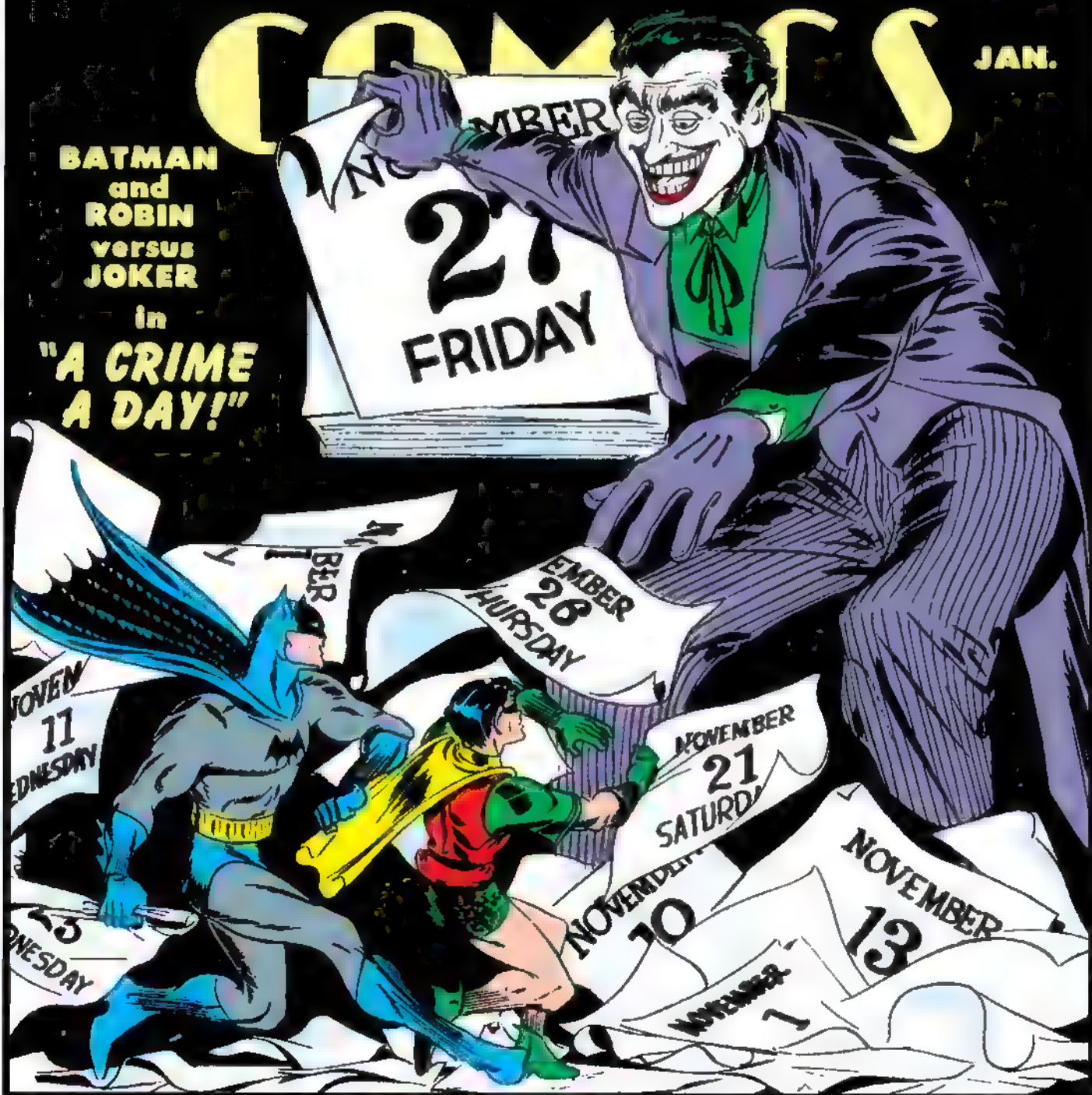
The **BATMAN**

Detective

COMICS

JAN.

**BATMAN
and
ROBIN
versus
JOKER
in
"A CRIME
A DAY!"**



BATMAN

WITH

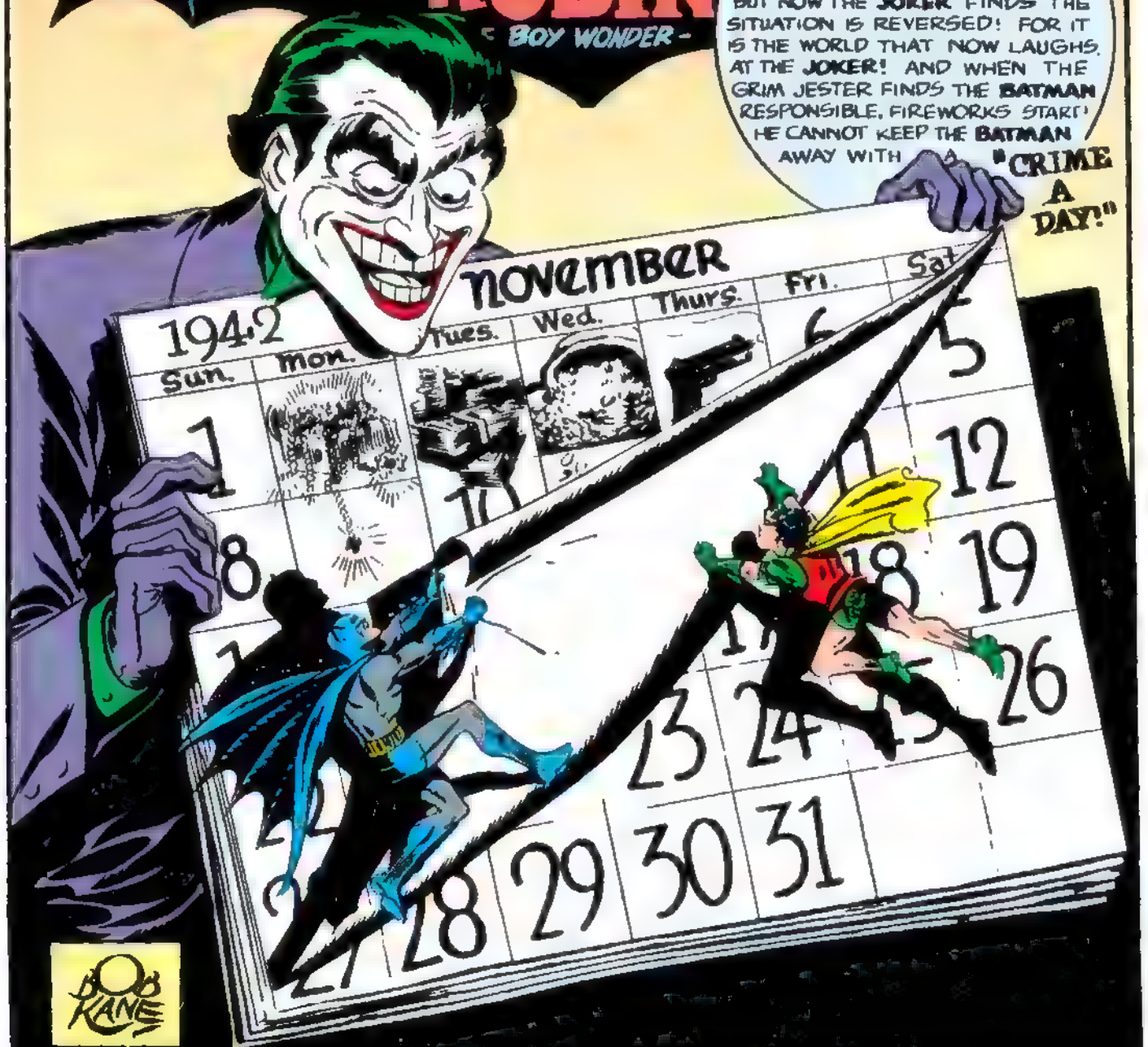
ROBIN

BOY WONDER

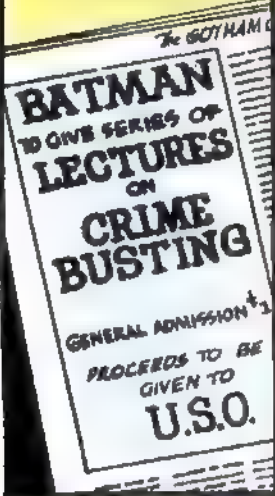
WHOSE
SCARLET LIPS GRIN
ETERNALLY IN A FACE AS
WHITE AS DEATH? ONLY
ONE MAN'S... THAT CRIME CLOWN.
THE JOKER!

BUT NOW THE JOKER FINDS THE
SITUATION IS REVERSED! FOR IT
IS THE WORLD THAT NOW LAUGHS
AT THE JOKER! AND WHEN THE
GRIM JESTER FINDS THE BATMAN
RESPONSIBLE, FIREWORKS START!
HE CANNOT KEEP THE BATMAN
AWAY WITH

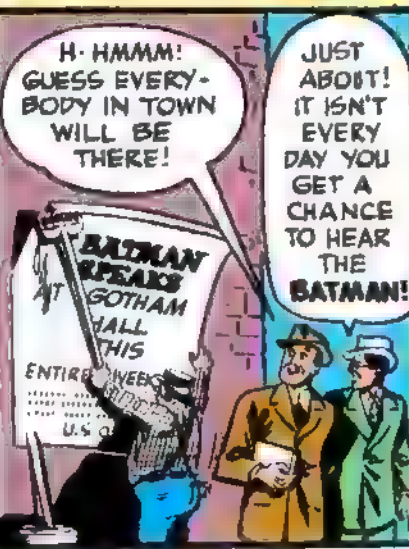
"CRIME
A
DAY!"



PROUDLY, IN LARGE TYPE, THE SUNDAY GOTHAM GAZETTE ANNOUNCES...



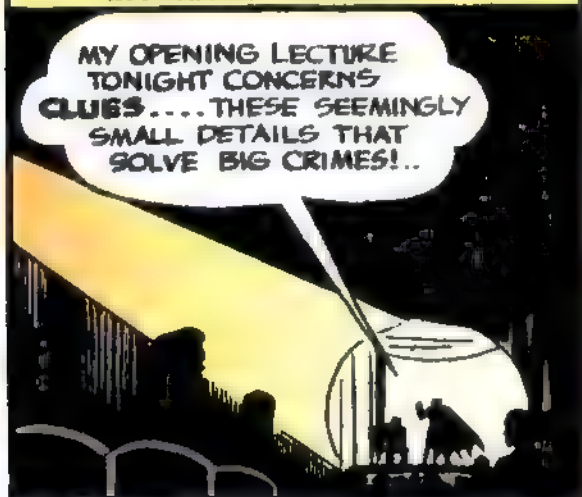
BILLBOARD POSTERS BLAZON THE SENSATIONAL NEWS...



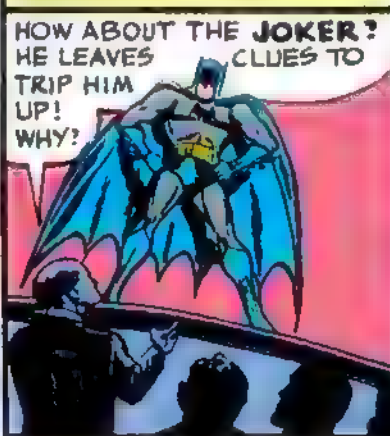
MONDAY NIGHT! A GREAT CROWD GATHERS AND GOES WILD AS THE BATMOBILE DISCHARGES BATMAN AND ROBIN, THE BOY WONDER!



THE THUNDEROUS OVATION DIES DOWN AS THE THRILLED AUDIENCE PREPARES TO LISTEN TO THE BATMAN'S ADDRESS!



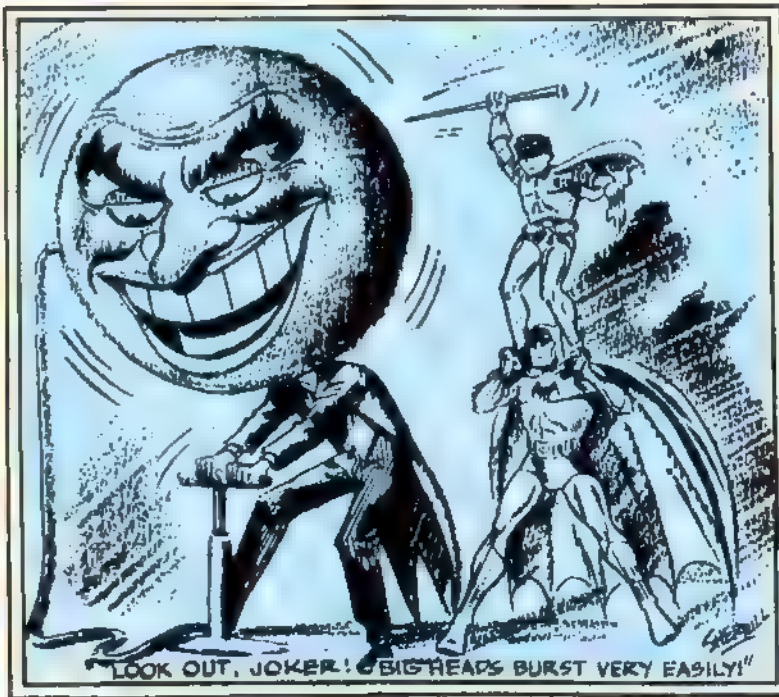
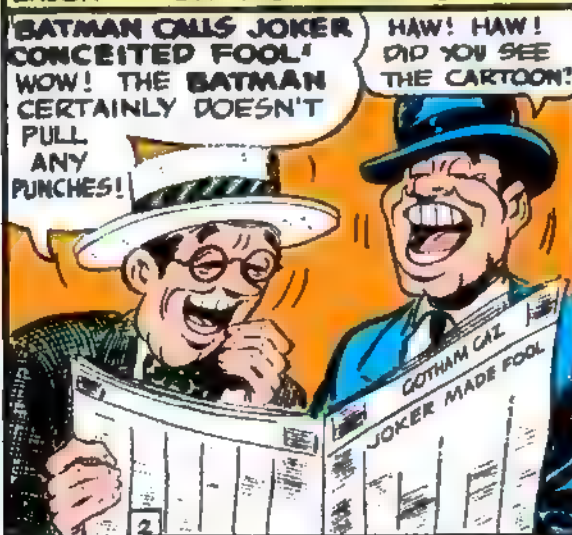
LATER.. AFTER HIS LECTURE, BATMAN INVITES QUESTIONS...

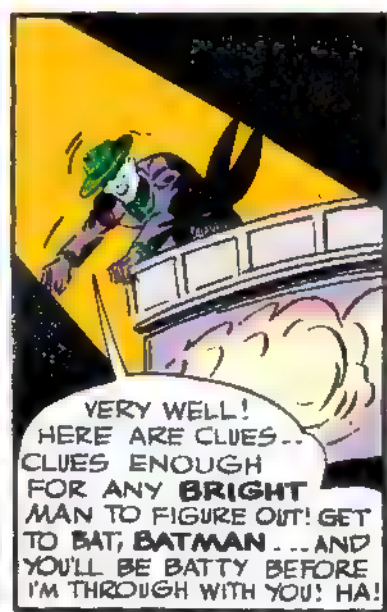
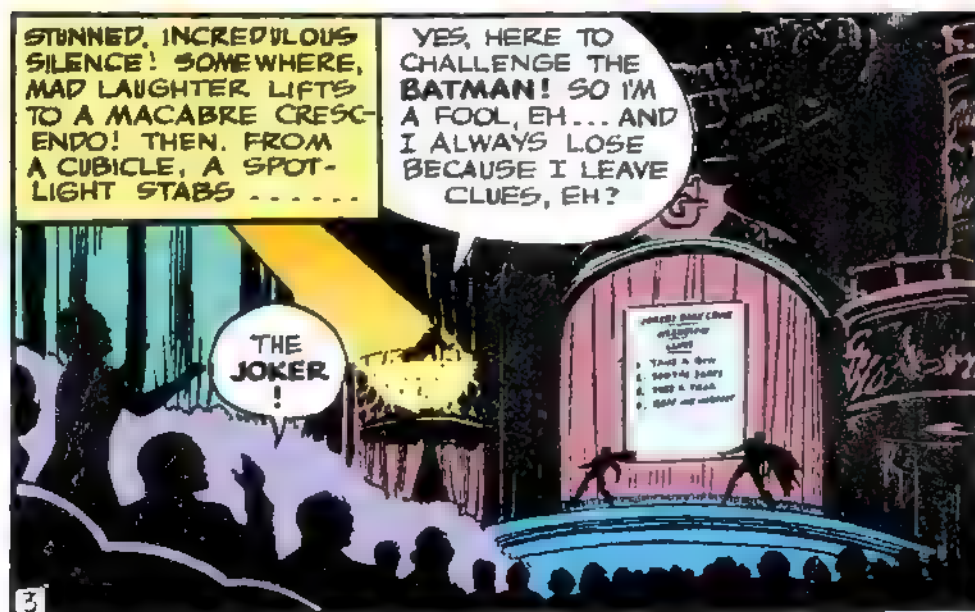
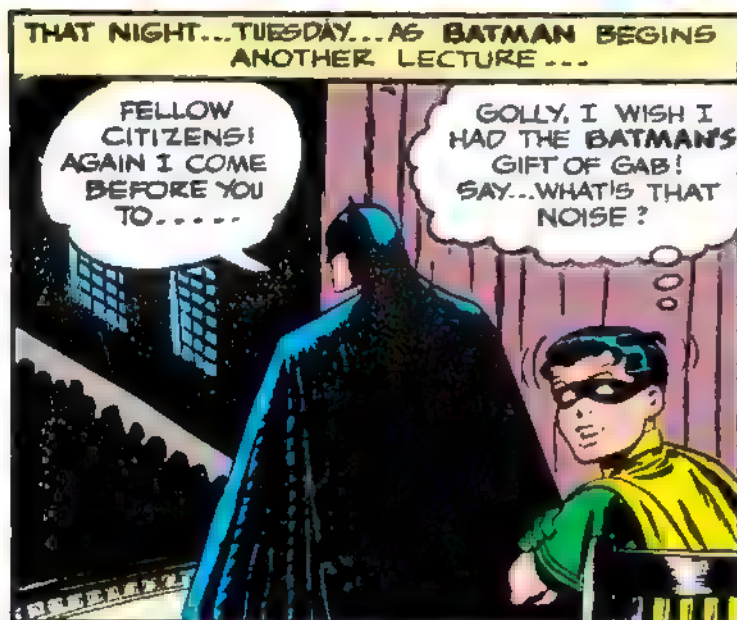
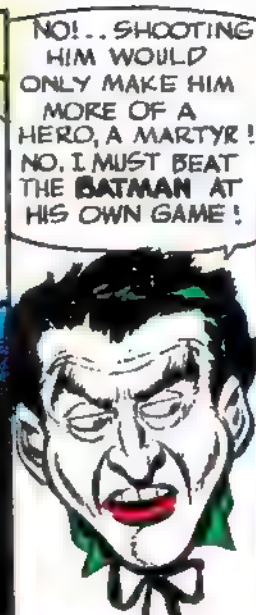
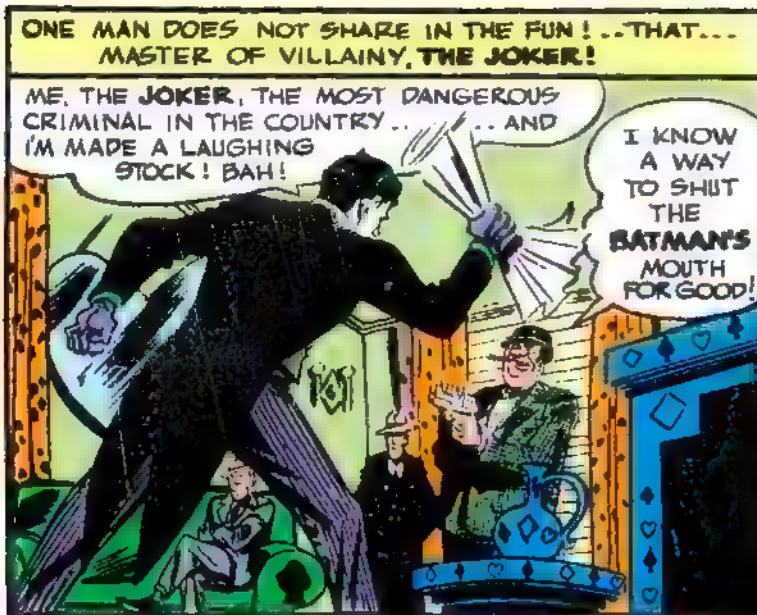


THE JOKER IS TRICKY, CUNNING... A SUPREME EGOTIST ADVERTISING HIS CRIMES LIKE A FOOL... LEAVES CLUES. CLUES THAT DEFEAT HIM!



NEXT DAY... THE WHOLE TOWN HAS A LAUGH... ON THE JOKER!





THE PARALYSIS OF SURPRISE LEAVES THE BATMAN! HIS LITHE BODY LAUNCHES INTO ACTION..

REMEMBER, BATMAN.. A CRIME A DAY TO COMPETE WITH YOUR LECTURE A DAY... AND YOU WON'T STOP ME!

LET'S GET THAT LAUGHING HYENA, ROBIN!

I HEAR YOU TALKIN'!

BUT AN EMPTY CORRIDOR MOCKS THE DUO!

GONE! THAT WILY FOX MUST HAVE DARTED INTO ONE OF THOSE ROOMS!

FOX? DON'T YOU MEAN THE ANIMAL WITH A WHITE STRIPE AND A DISTASTEFUL AROMA?

THEN... A SPINE-CHILLING SHRIEK!

HELP! THE JOKER IS KILLING ME! HELP! HELP!

THAT'S WHERE HE IS! C'MON, ROBIN!

A LOCKED DOOR DEFILES THE BATMAN'S RATTLING OF THE KNOB!

STAND BACK, ROBIN! I'M GOING TO BATTER IT DOWN!

BATMAN, THE HUMAN TANK! CLEAR THE WAY FOR THE INFANTRY!

DON'T... DON'T KILL ME, JOKER! DON'T...

A DOOR-CRASHING LUNGE OF THE BATMAN'S POWERFUL FRAME AND SURPRISE!!

NO! JOKER DON'T.. DON'T..

GRASH!

HUH?

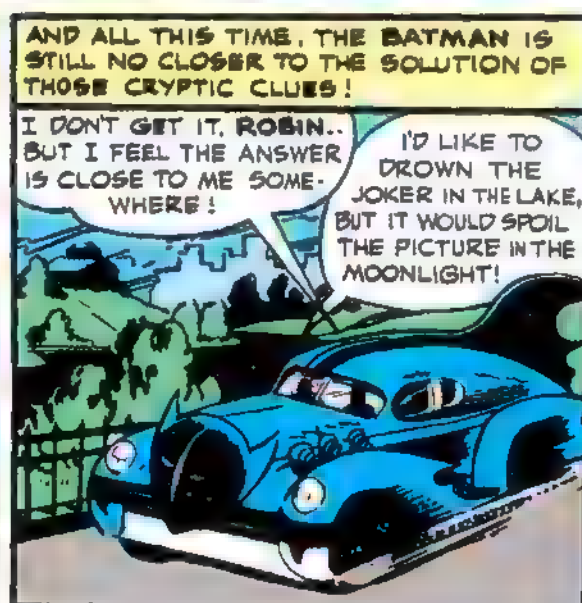
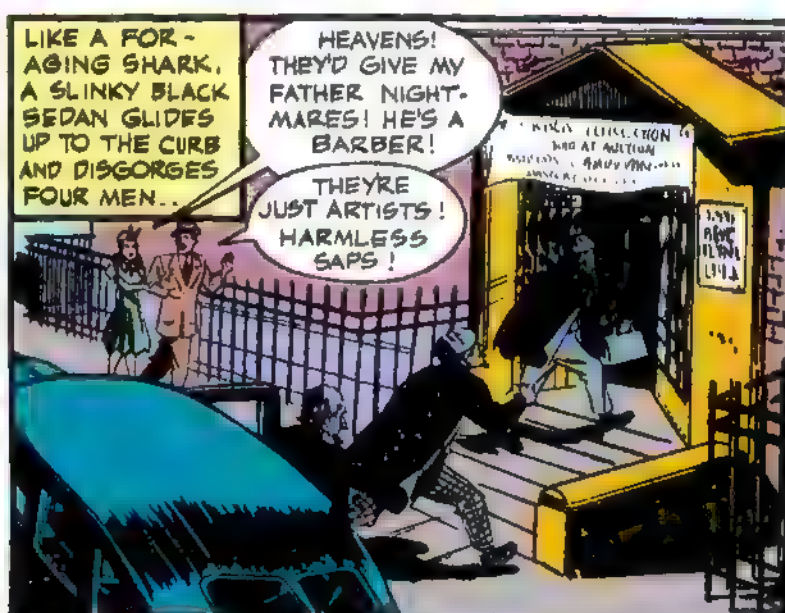
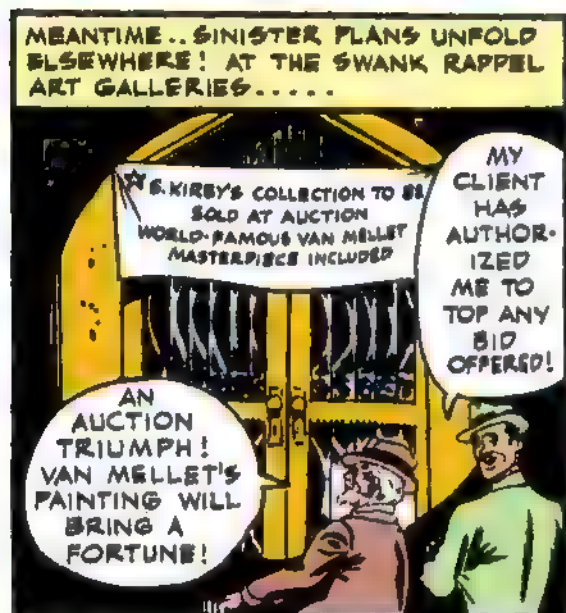
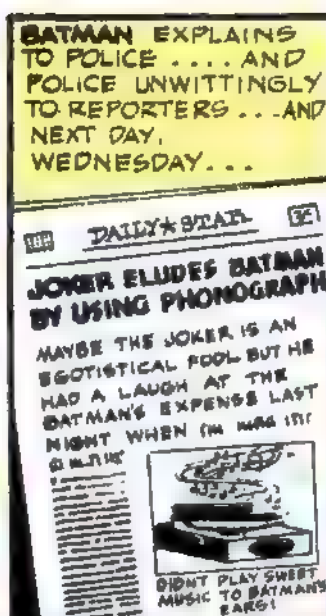
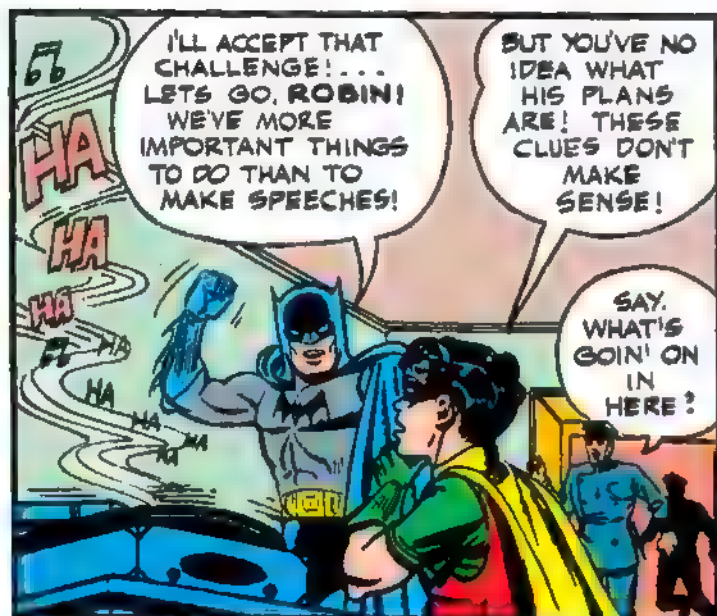
WHY, IT'S A RECORD!

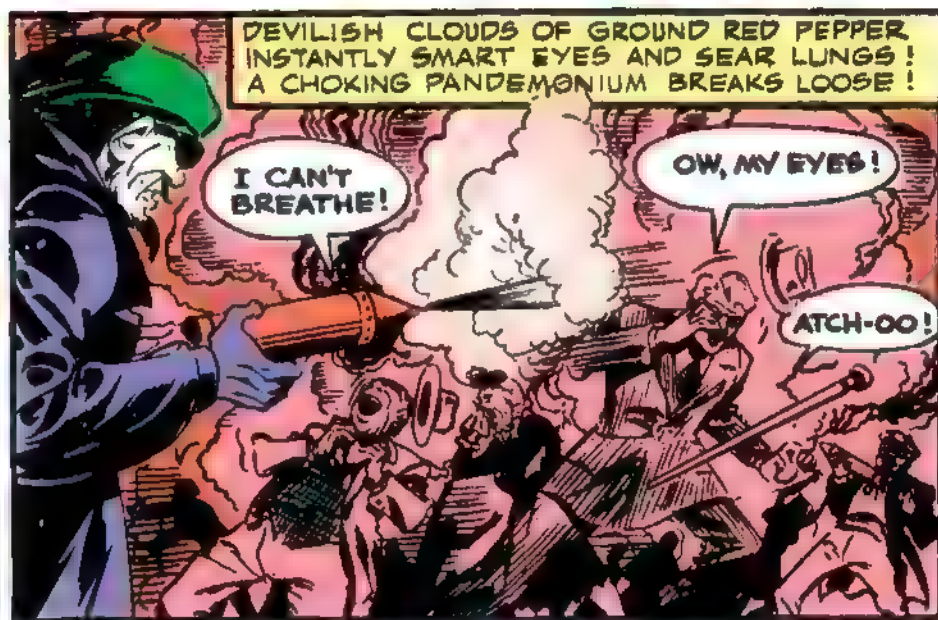
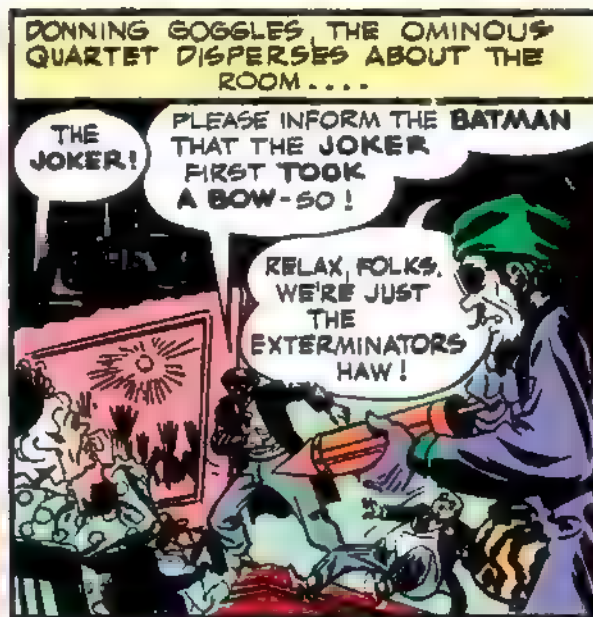
AND A RECORD FOR A SMART MOVE. THE JOKER HAD A CHANCE TO ESCAPE WHILE OUR ATTENTION WAS DIVERTED HERE!

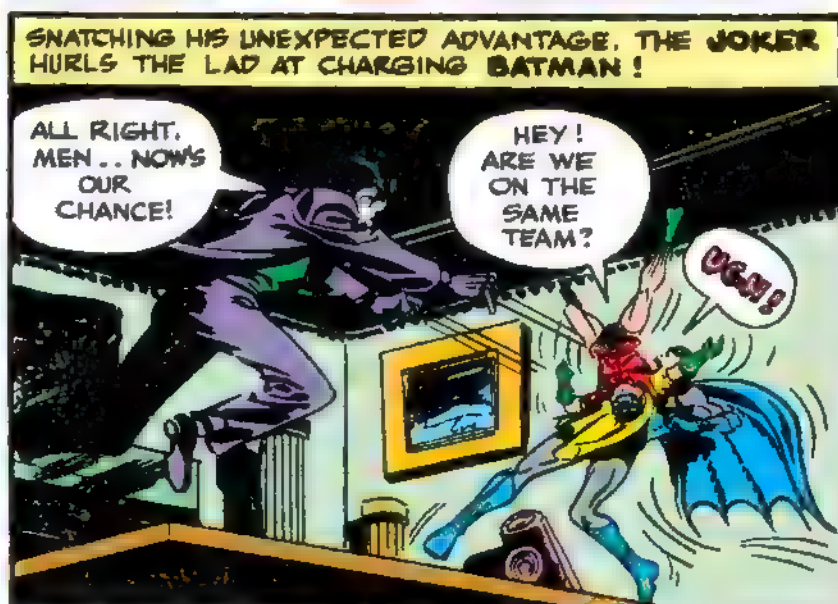
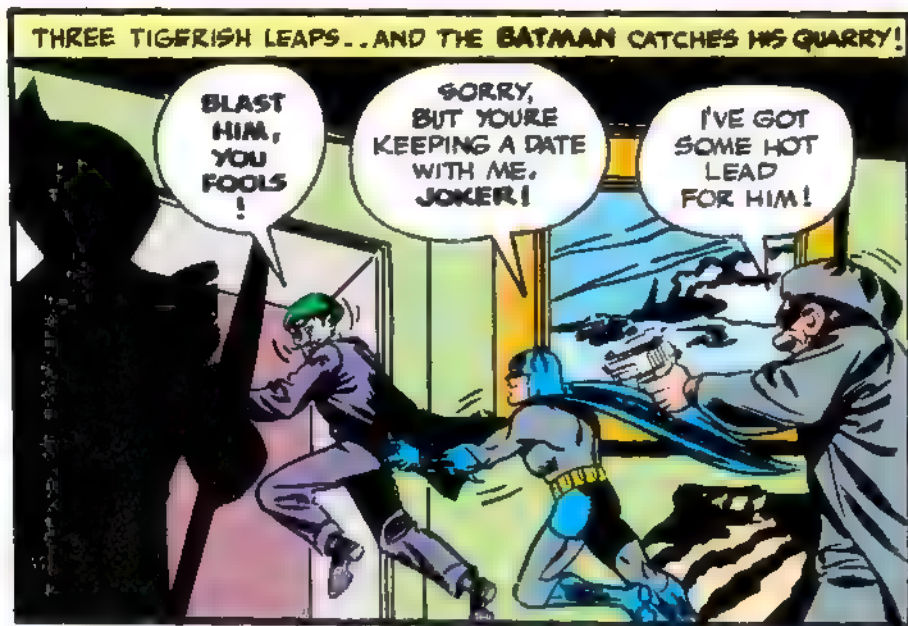
DON'T JOKER! NOT THAT!

AND AS IF IN MOCKING REPLY...

HELLO, BATMAN! YOU MUST HAVE BROKEN THE DOOR BY NOW SO LISTEN TO-MORROW I WILL COMMIT THE FIRST OF MY CRIMES! A CLUE AND A CHALLENGE!







REGAINING THEIR FEET, THE DUO PURSUES THE JOKER AND HIS CRONIES WHO HAVE NOW DISCARDED THEIR ARTIST DISGUISE.

THERE THEY GO... IN THAT OIL TANK TRUCK!

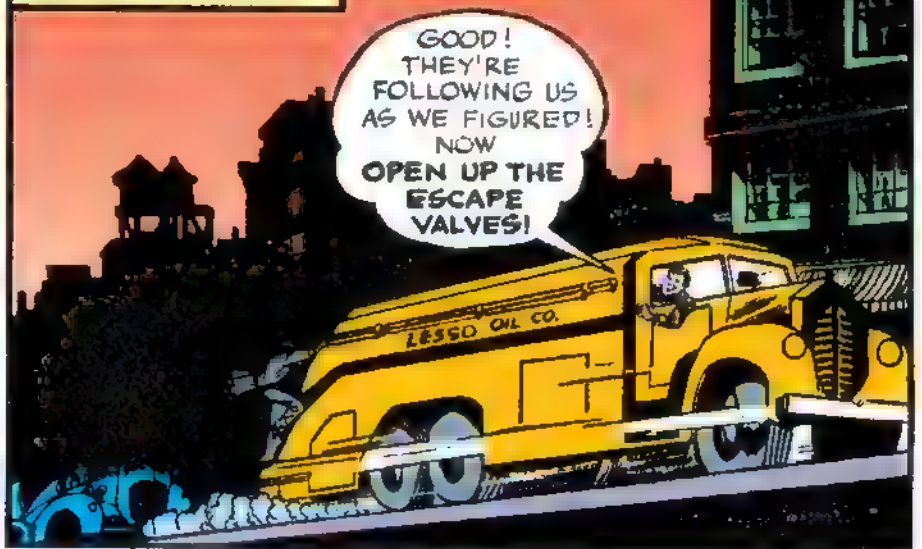
THEY WON'T GET FAR! QUICK! THE BATMOBILE!

HA! HA! HA!



AS THE BATMOBILE ROARS FORWARD...

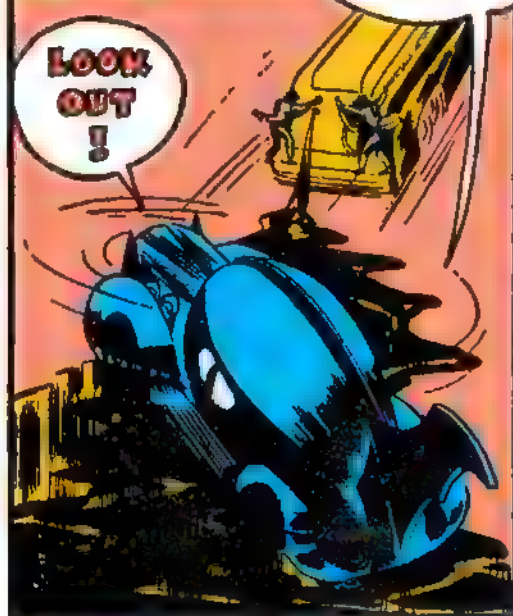
GOOD! THEY'RE FOLLOWING US AS WE FIGURED! NOW OPEN UP THE ESCAPE VALVES!



OIL FLOWS... AND IN THE WAKE OF THE TRUCK, THE SPEEDING BATMOBILE SKIDS AND SLIDES CRAZILY!

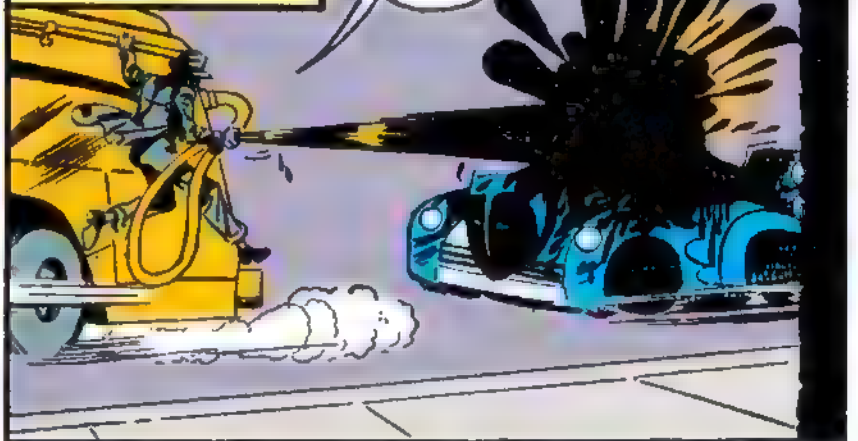
WOW! THIS IS LIKE RIDING ON GLASS! HOLD ONTO YOUR HAT, KID!

LOOK OUT!



THE RELENTLESS BATMOBILE CLOSES UP THE GAP... AND IS HOSED WITH A TORRENT OF BLACK OIL!

TAKE IT, GHOMP!



TRAPPED IN A FLAMING COFFIN!

THIS THING'S AN OVEN! WE'LL BE HAMBURGERS IF WE DON'T GET OUT!



WE DAREN'T OPEN UP THE DOORS AND RUN FOR IT! WE'RE TRAPPED!... WE'VE GOT A CHANCE... A LONG CHANCE!

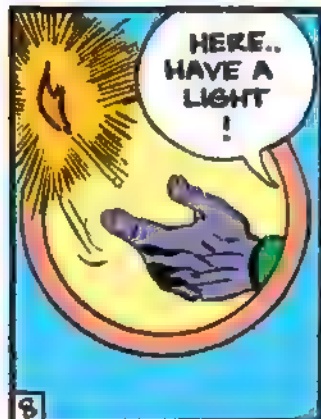
LIKE A FIERY METEOR, THE BLAZING BATMOBILE FLASHES... TOWARD WHAT??

GET SET, ROBIN! HERE WE GO!



WHAT IS THE BATMAN'S PLAN? CAN YOU GUESS??

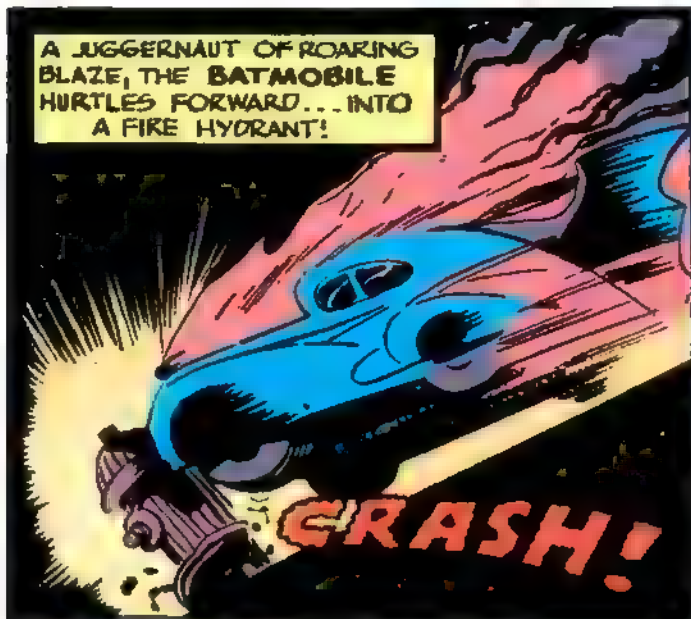
HERE.. HAVE A LIGHT!



WHOOSH!



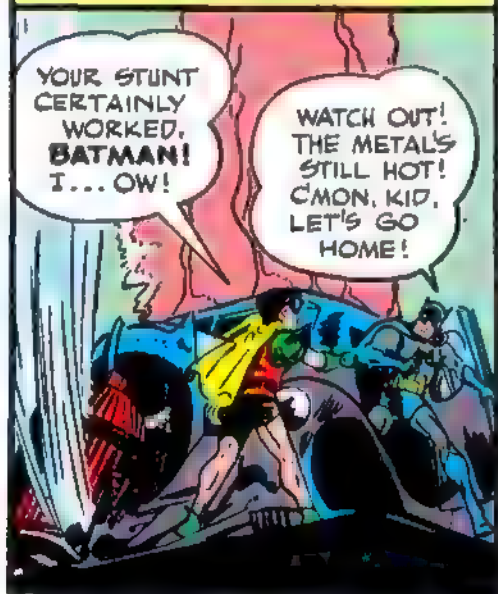
A JUGGERNAUT OF ROARING BLAZE, THE BATMOBILE HURTTLES FORWARD... INTO A FIRE HYDRANT!



A NIAGARA OF WATER BURSTS FROM THE BROKEN HYDRANT... TO SPILL OVER THE FLAMING BATMOBILE!



LONG MINUTES LATER... THE WATER TAKES EFFECT AND SOON ONLY CHARRED, HISSING WRECKAGE IS LEFT OF THE ONCE IMPREGNABLE BATMOBILE!



YOUR STUNT CERTAINLY WORKED, BATMAN! I... OW!

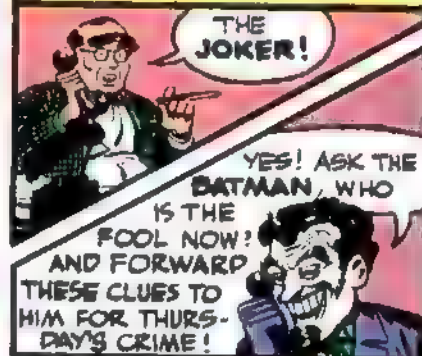
WATCH OUT! THE METALS STILL HOT! C'MON, KID, LET'S GO HOME!

AND AS THE DISAPPOINTED DUO PLOD HOMEWARD, A NEWSPAPER REPORTER NOTES...

HMM! GUESS THE PUBLIC WILL HAVE TO HEAR HOW THE JOKER PUT ONE OVER ON THE BATMAN! TOO BAD!



LATER THAT NIGHT, THE EDITOR OF THE GOTHAM GAZETTE GETS A CALL.



THE JOKER!

YES! ASK THE BATMAN, WHO IS THE FOOL NOW? AND FORWARD THESE CLUES TO HIM FOR THURSDAY'S CRIME!

THURSDAY... AND WHILE THE BATMAN PUZZLES VAINLY OVER CRYPTIC CLUES, THE JOKER AGAIN PULLS A SUCCESSFUL CRIME COUP!



HA! HA!

THE JOKER'S GOT ME RUNNING AROUND IN CIRCLES!

AND AGAIN THE EDITOR HEARS THAT MOCKING, JEERING VOICE...

...AND YOU MAY QUOTE ME AS SAYING THE BATMAN IS SLIPPING - BUT DEFINITELY!

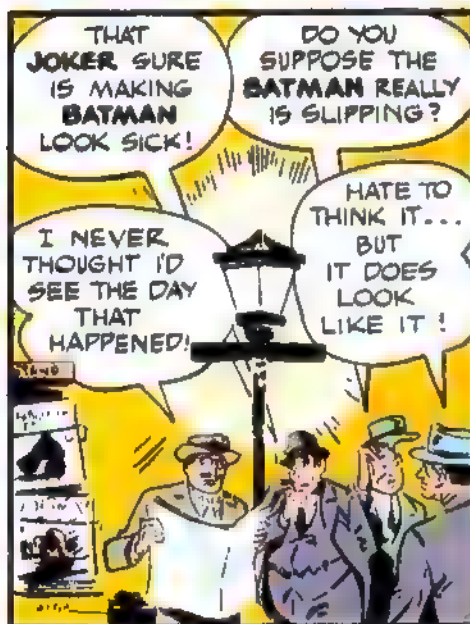


THERE! I GUESS I'VE DONE ENOUGH DAMAGE NOW! CALL ME A FOOL, WILL HE? HAH!



I WOULDN'T WANT TO CROSS YOU, JOKER!

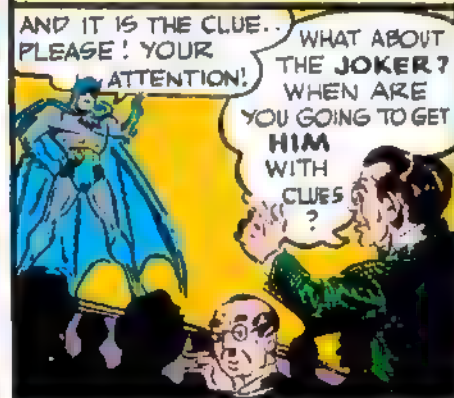
FRIDAY MORNING, GOTHAM CITY IS ROCKED BY NEW HEADLINES...



AND THIS TIME IT IS THE BATMAN WHO IS THE SUBJECT OF A LAMPOONING CARTOON!

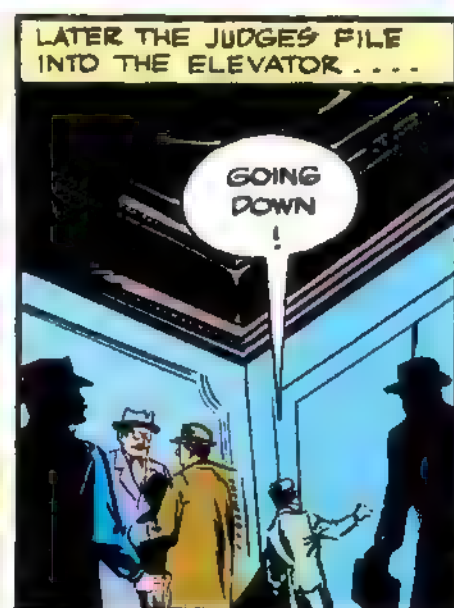
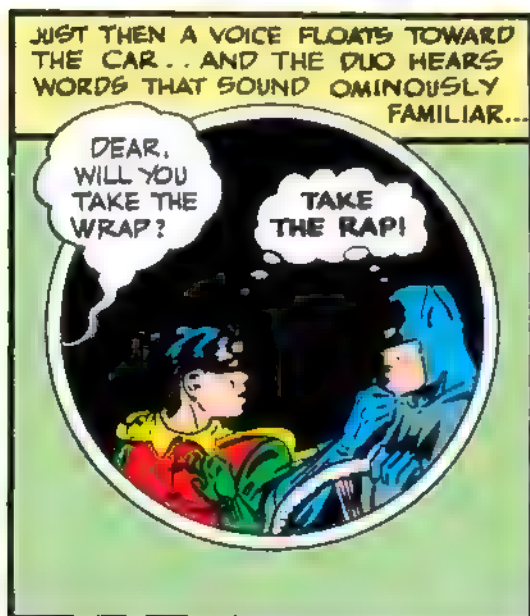
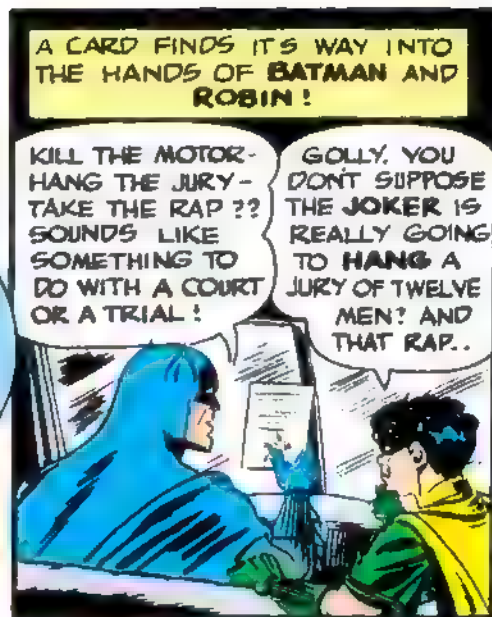
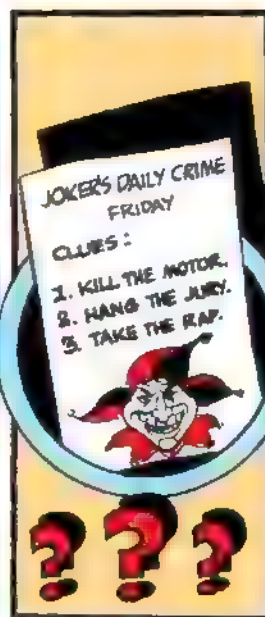


AND THAT EVENING, AS THE BATMAN DELIVERS HIS DAILY LECTURE, THE POISON OF DOUBT BEGINS TO EAT AT THE THOUGHTS OF THE AUDIENCE!



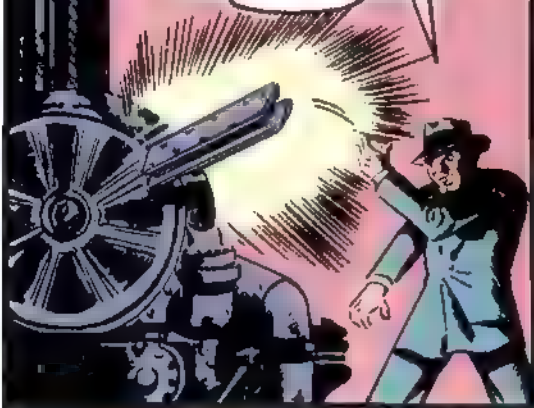
THE DOUBT SPREADS LIKE A MALIGNANT GROWTH... AND EVEN PLANT ROOTS IN THE HEART OF THE BATMAN!





AT THAT MOMENT... DOWN BELOW
IN THE BUILDING BASEMENT...

JUST LIKE THE JOKER
PLANNED! FIRST WE
KILL THE MOTOR BY
SHORT CIRCUITING
IT!



AND IN A HIDDEN
CORNER, UPSTAIRS,
THE JOKER
LAUGHS...

HA! HA! BY NOW
THE JURY OF THE
CONTEST SHOULD
BE HANGING!
HA! HA!



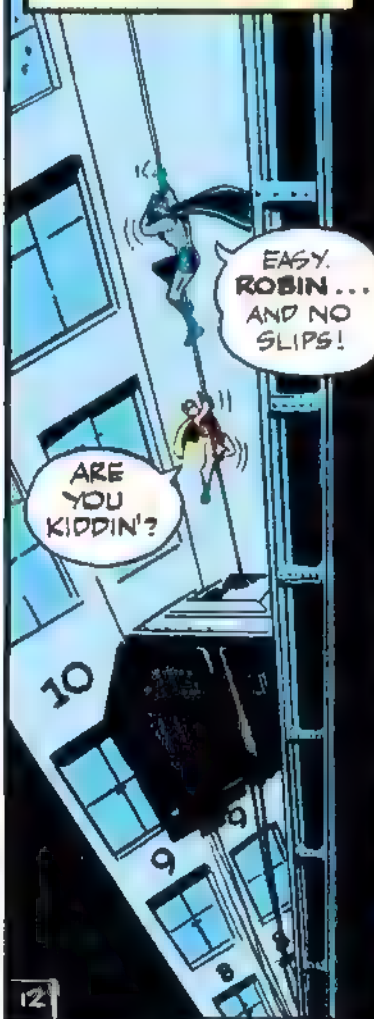
IN TRUTH, THE JURY DOES HANG...
BETWEEN FLOORS! AND IN THE
CAR AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION
TAKES PLACE!

OKAY, ROBIN... PEEL
OFF THAT ELEVATOR
BOY DISGUISE! THE
CAR STOPPED AS EXPECTED!

GOOD THING
WE ARRANGED
ALL THIS
BEFORE-
HAND! NOW
FOR THE JOKER!



THE ELEVATOR TOP
SLIDES BACK... AND
LIKE TWO MONKEYS
ON A STRING, THE
CRIME-CRACKERS
CLAMBER UP THE
CABLE!



EASY,
ROBIN...
AND NO
SLIPS!

ARE
YOU
KIDDIN'?

AND AT THAT MOMENT THE JOKER'S
CRIME PARADE MARCHES ON!

EEEEEE!
THE
JOKER!

IN PERSON, MADAME...
AND SINCE I REMOVE
MY HAT... SURELY YOU
CAN REMOVE YOUR
WRAP!

HAW! HAW!
AIN'T THE
JOKER
A
CARD?



YEAH...
HE'S THE WHOLE
MARKED DECK!

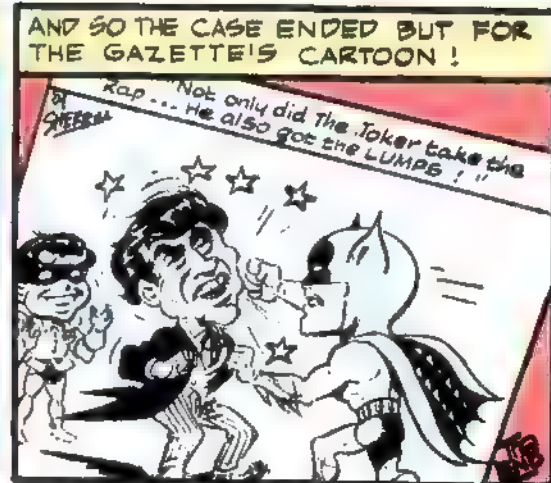
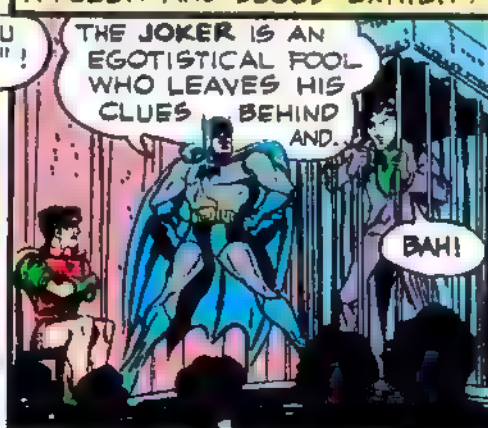
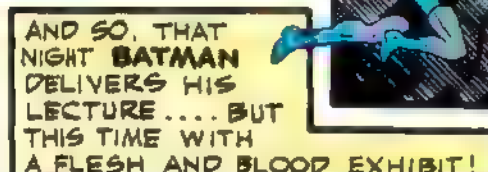
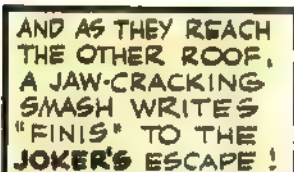
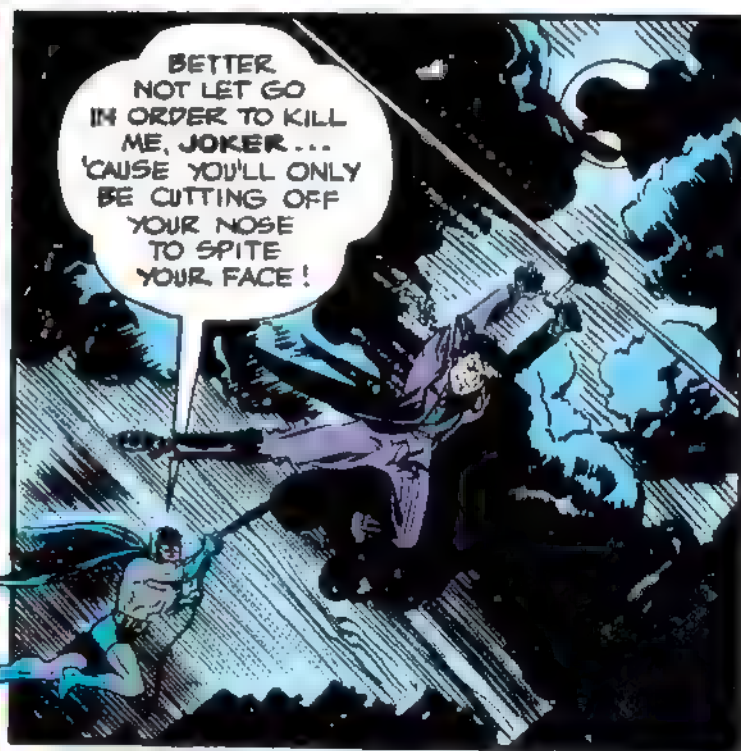
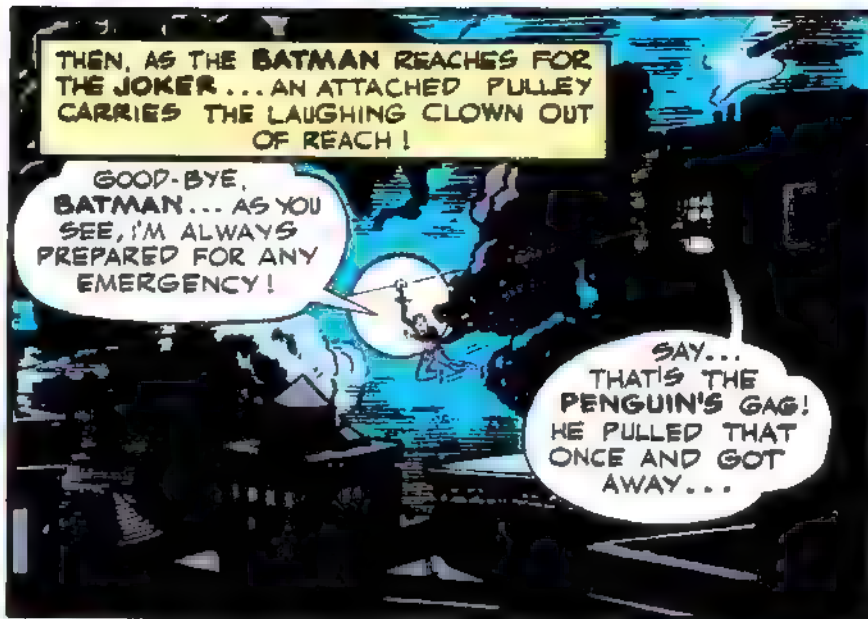
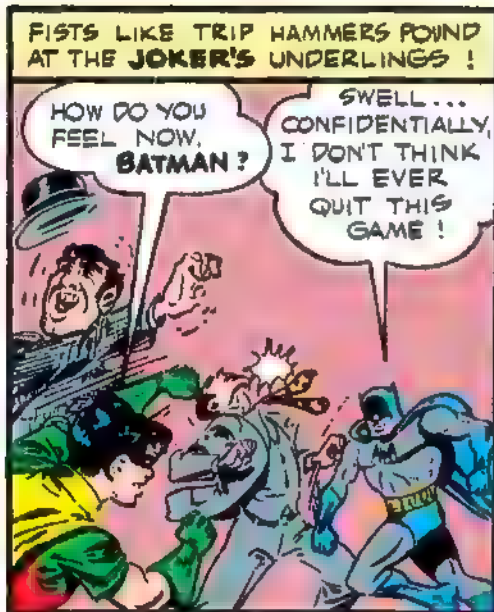
YOU!



YOU'RE TAKING THE RAP
ALL RIGHT, JOKER...

BUT THE WAY YOU
SPELLED IT THE
FIRST TIME --
WITHOUT THE
W!

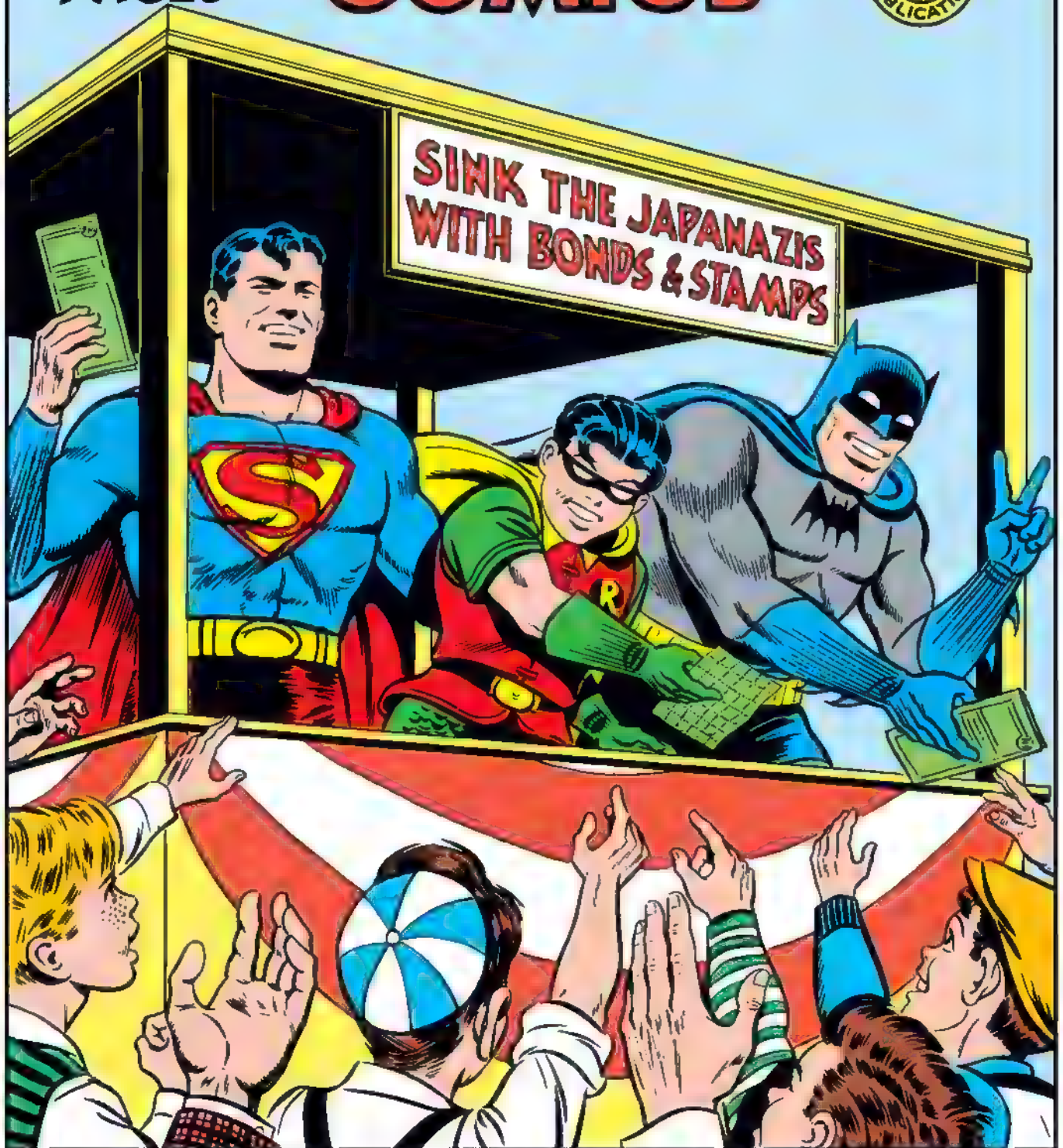




No. 8 WINTER
ISSUE

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

96
PAGES



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

G-MAN, STATE TROOPER, PRIVATE DETECTIVE... THAT'S THE PROUD RECORD OF THE O'BRIEN FAMILY, FATHER AND SONS, REARED IN THE GALLANT TRADITIONS OF THE LAW!

THEN, INTO THEIR LIVES ENTERS A SINISTER FIGURE, RUTHLESS AND CUNNING....

THE LITTLE CORPORAL OF CRIME!

... AND TWO BROTHERS ARE HURTLED INTO A GRIM GAME OF VENGEANCE! EACH ON HIS OWN! FOR AN INVISIBLE BARRIER OF STUBBORN PRIDE STANDS BETWEEN THEM... UNTIL ANOTHER PAIR, THOSE SUPREME CRIME BUSTERS —

BATMAN AND ROBIN — TAKE UNDER THEIR PROTECTIVE WING THE RECKLESS RIVAL....

"BROTHERS IN LAW!"

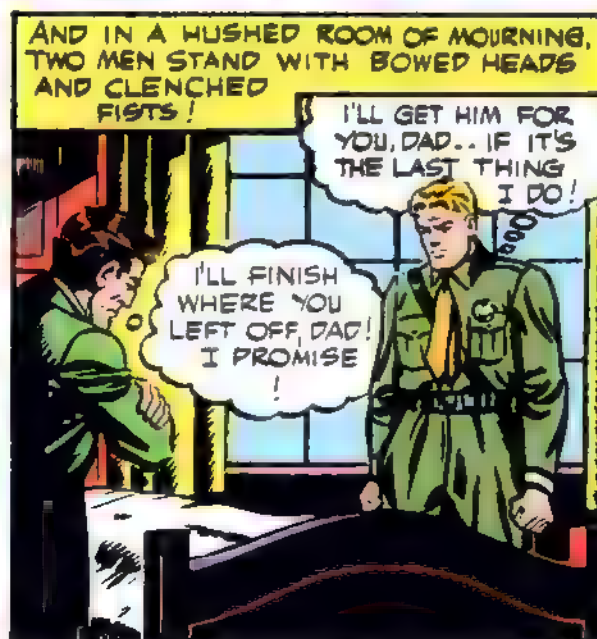
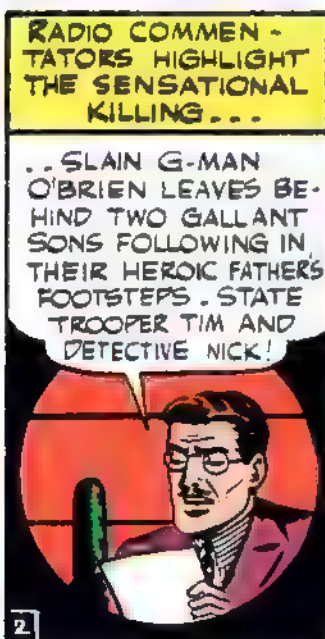
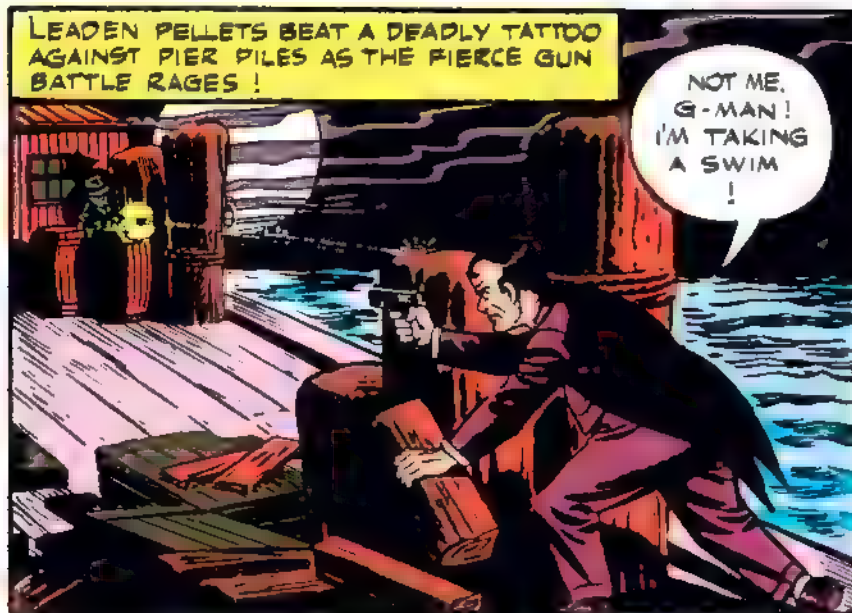


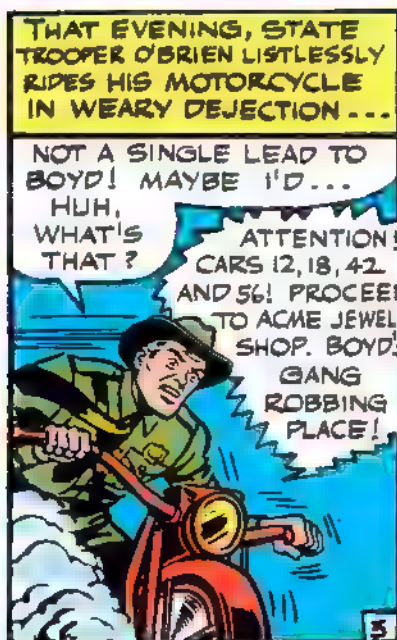
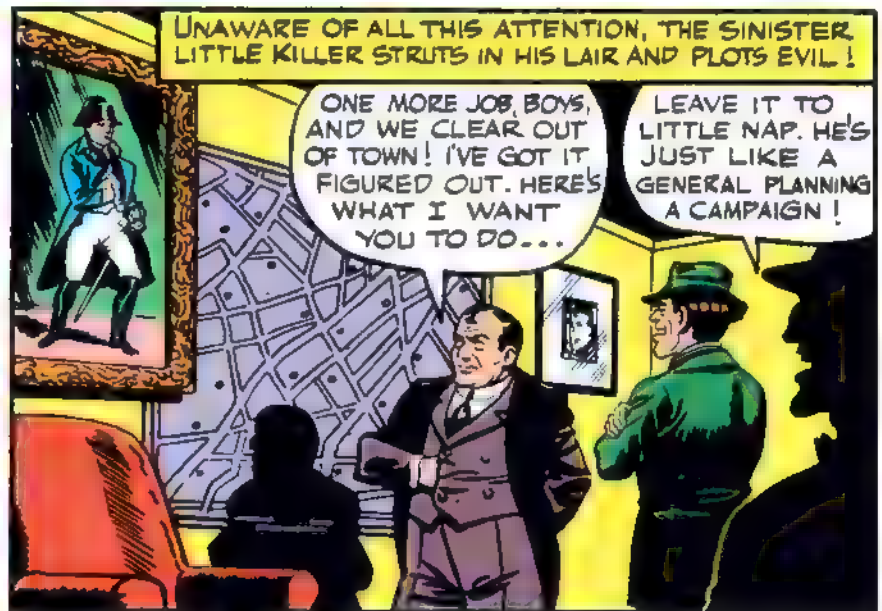
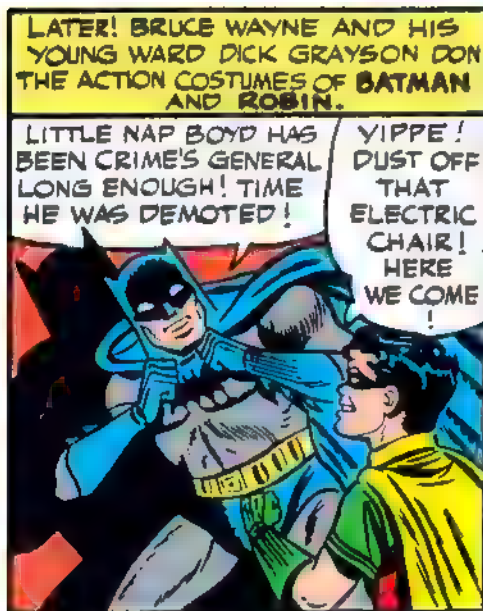
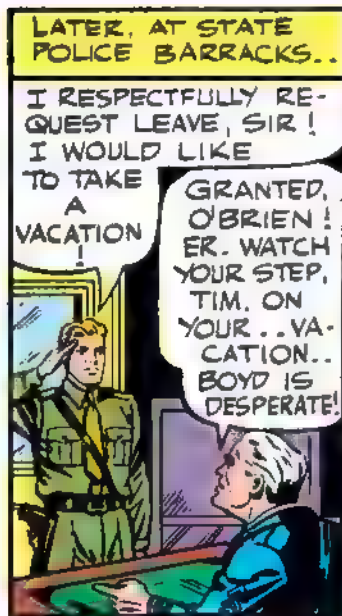
by
BOB KANE

NIGHT... AND JETS OF FLAMING DEATH SLICE THROUGH THE DARK WATERFRONT!

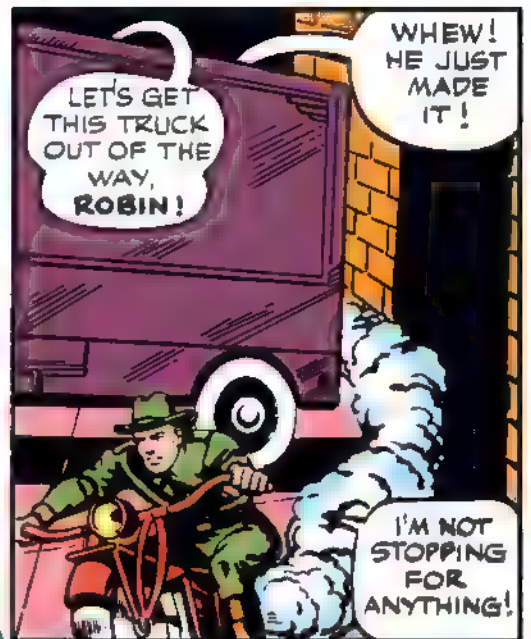


I'VE GOT YOU CORNERED, YOU ROTTEN KILLER! BETTER SURRENDER!

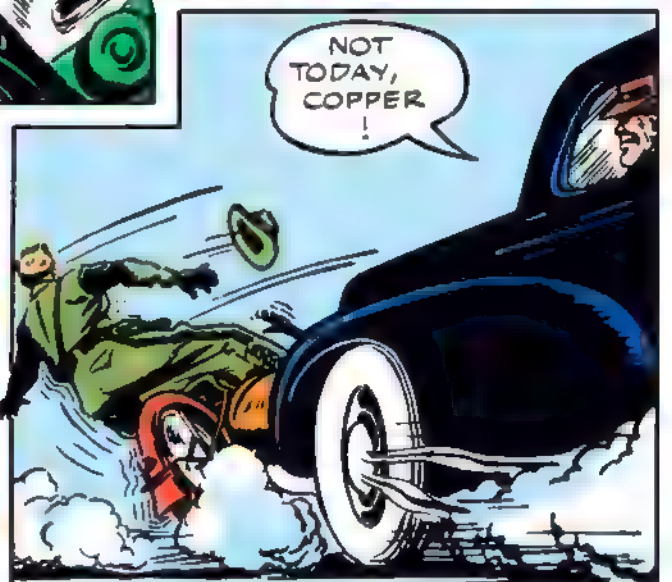
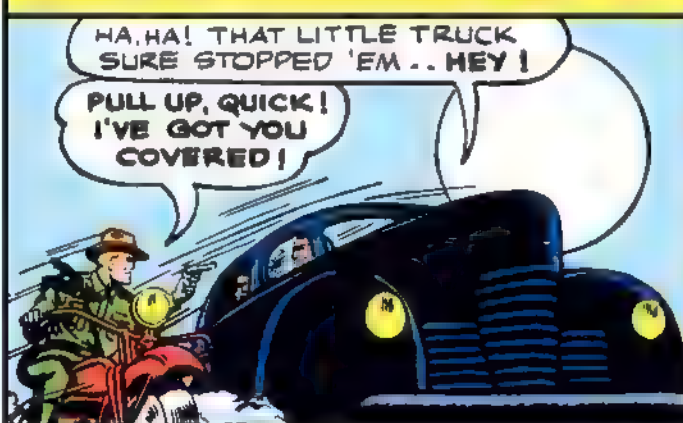




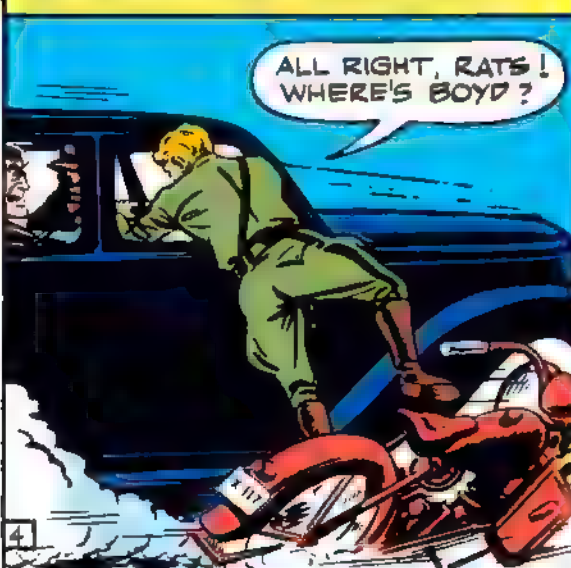
SUDDENLY A GIANT TRUCK LUMBERS OUT INTO THE STREET, AND...



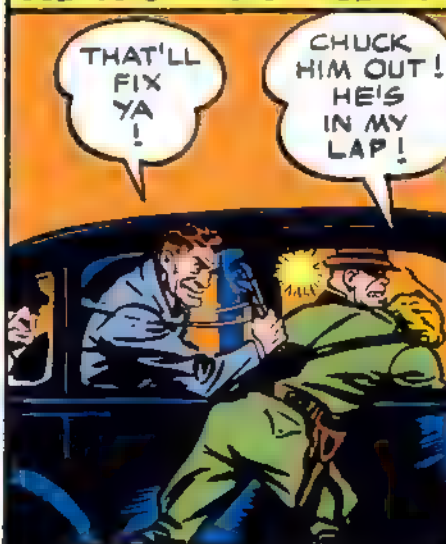
THE GRIM FIGURE ON THE MOTORCYCLE OPENS THE THROTTLE WIDE AND...



BUT THE FIERY YOUNG STATE TROOPER MOVES WITH LIGHTNING SPEED!



WITHOUT WARNING, A HAND FROM THE REAR SEAT DESCENDS ON THE OFFICER!



NOW, HE WANTS TO SEE BOYD. DON'T HE? WELL, TAKE HIM TO THE HIDEOUT! HA, HA! LITTLE NAP FOOL-ED 'EM ALL! THEY WILL SOON FIND OUT WE'RE JUST A DECOY!



WHAT? JUST A DECOY? YES, FOR AT THAT MOMENT THE CUNNING GENERAL IS READY FOR HIS THRUST!

SOME HAUL! AND NOBODY AROUND TO BOTHER US! NAP OUTFLANKED THE COPS WITH THAT FAKE JEWELRY JOB!

SURE WE DON'T WANT JEWELS! WE WANT, CASH! WE'RE GONNA TAKE A VACATION!

UNSEEN EYES GLEAM FROM A NEARBY FIRE EXIT...

GOT HERE JUST IN TIME! THAT STOOL PIGEON'S TIP WAS RIGHT ON THE NOSE!

UP WITH 'EM, BOYD! YOU'RE GOING FOR A VACATION. ALL RIGHT!...THE HOT SEAT!

ANOTHER O'BRIEN, HUH?

BUT THE LITTLE CORPORAL HAS PLANNED WELL... UNFORTUNATELY FOR NICK. REAR GUARD ACTION SURPRISES HIM!

LUCKY FOR HIM YA SAID NOT TO MAKE ANY NOISE AROUND HERE, BOSS!

BOTH O'BRIEN BROTHERS IN THE DEADLY CLUTCH OF THE EVIL CRIME CHIEF! IS THIS TO BE THE PATHETIC END OF THOSE BRAVE VOWS MADE SUCH A SHORT WHILE BEFORE?

LET US GO BACK FOR A MOMENT TO BATMAN AND ROBIN...

THEY GOT AWAY! WE FOUND YOUNG O'BRIEN'S MOTORCYCLE IN A DITCH! THEY MUST HAVE TAKEN HIM ALONG! WHERE'S THAT TRUCK DRIVER?

WHY...ER WE LET HIM GO! THERE HE IS... UP THE STREET!

GOOD WORK, SLIM! WE DON'T WANT THE COPS ON US! WE'LL TAKE THIS ONE ALONG! I DON'T LIKE O'BRIENS!

THE SUPERCHARGED MOTOR OF THE BATMOBILE ROARS IN SWIFT PURSUIT...

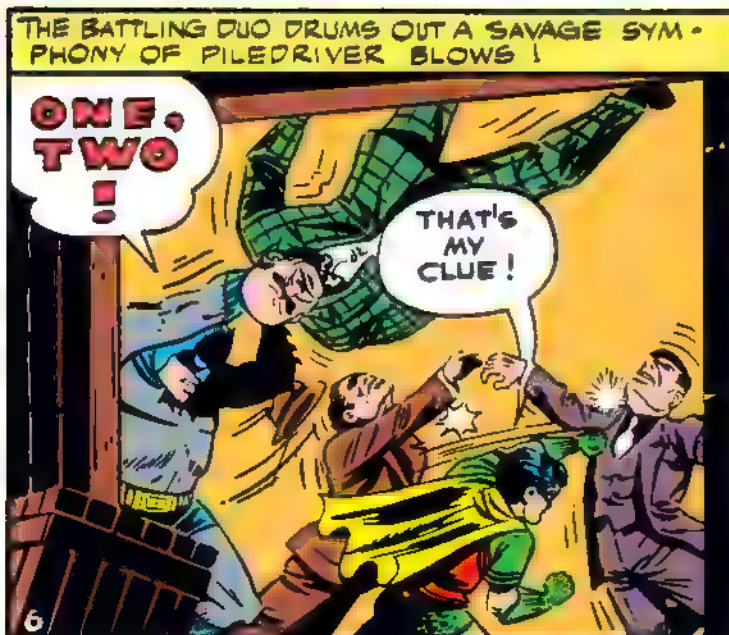
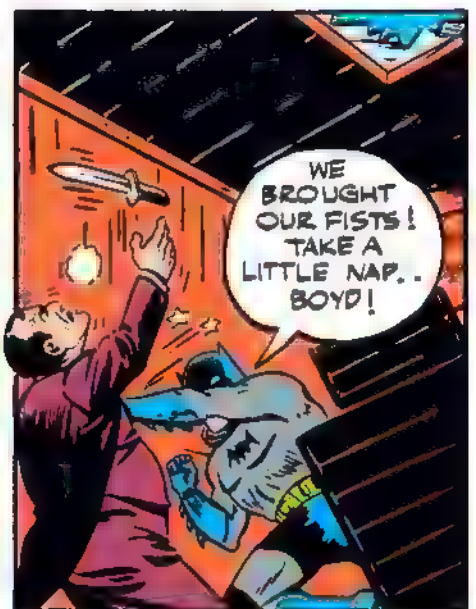
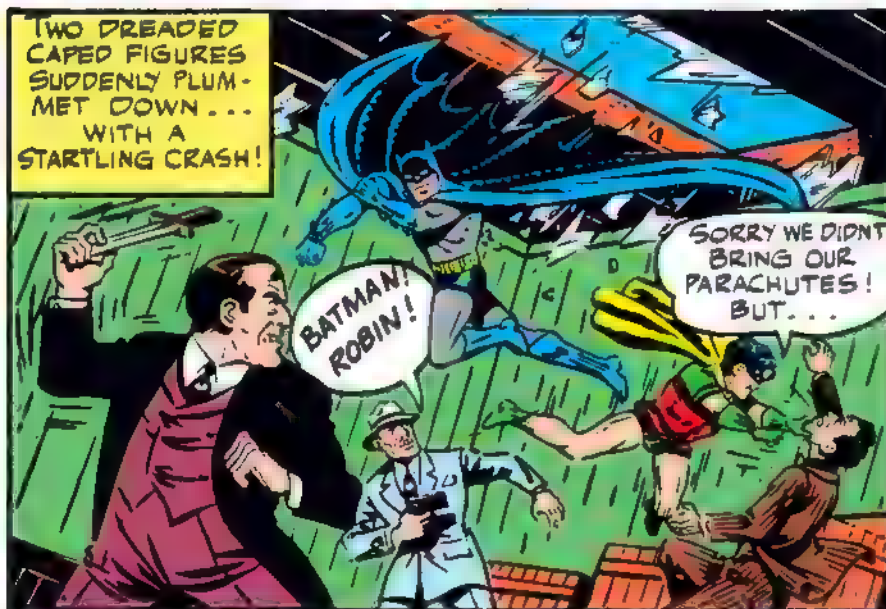
COME ON, TALK! WHERE'S BOYD HIDING OUT!

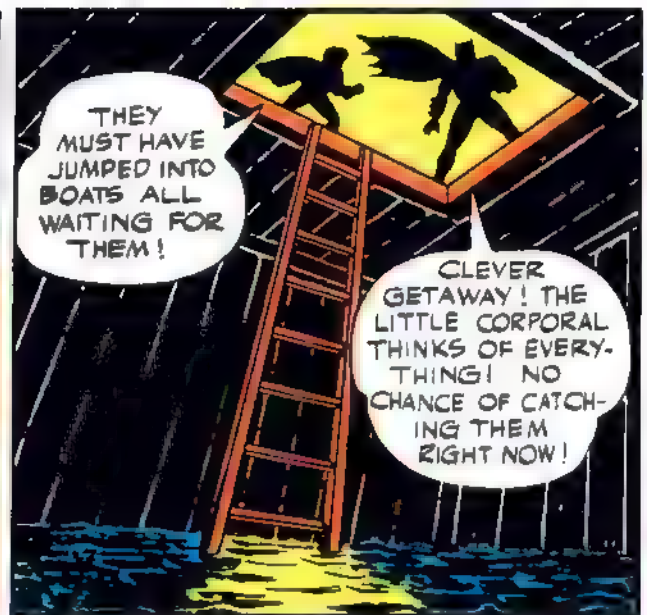
I TELL YA, I DON'T KNOW NOTHIN', BATMAN! LIKE I SAYS TO THE COPS I WAS JUST...

LISTEN, PUNK! THAT WAS NO ACCIDENT! I'LL GIVE YOU TWO SECONDS TO TALK!

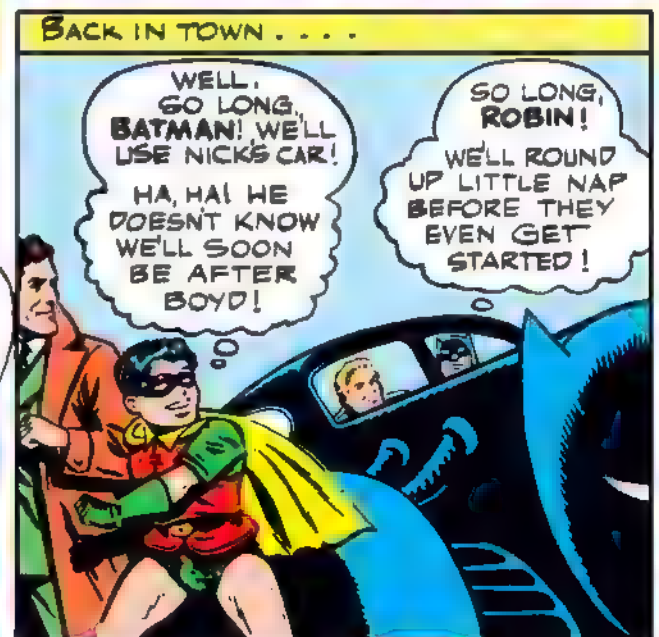
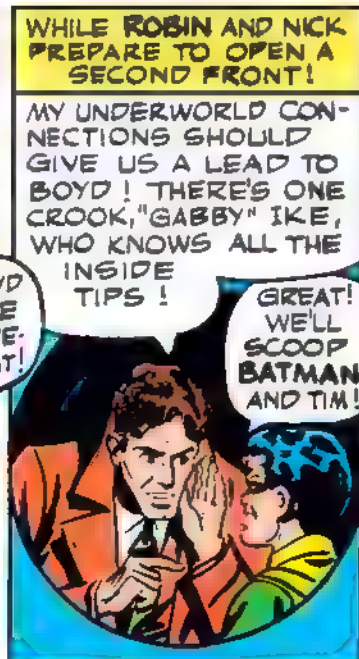
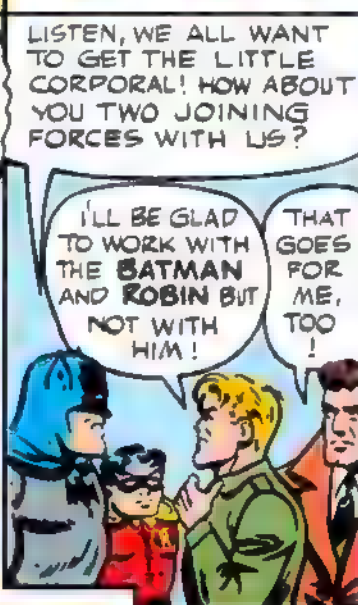
LITTLE NAP'S AT JOE'S OLD WAREHOUSE DOWN AT THE WATER-FRONT!

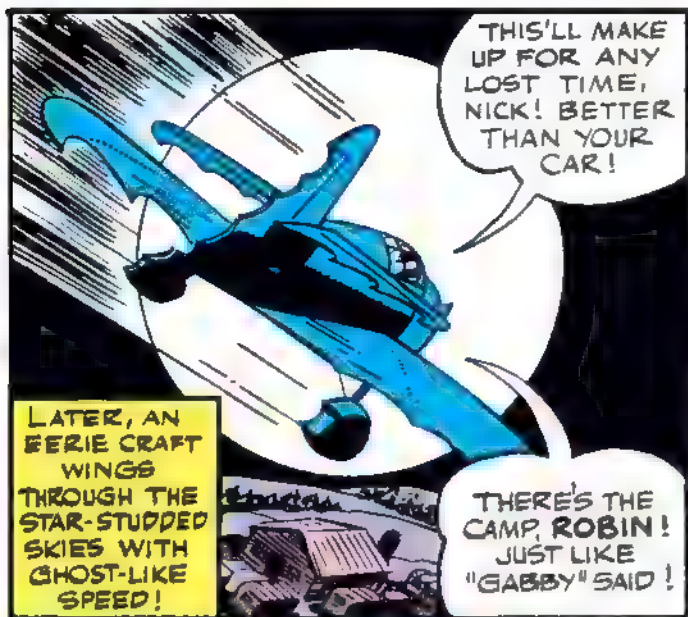
D-DON'T HIT ME! ...I'LL...I'LL TALK!

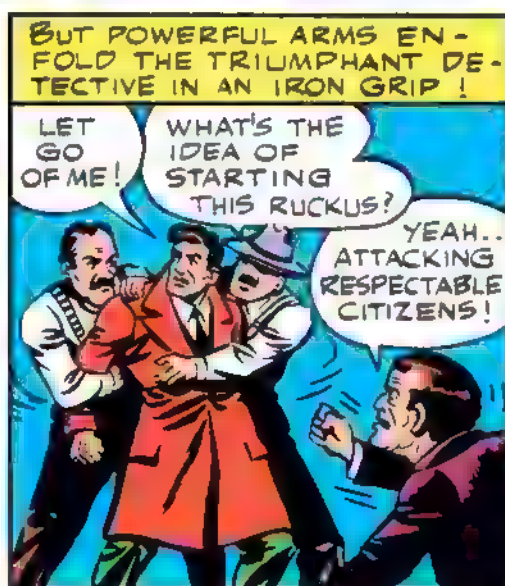




AS BATMAN FREES THE O'BRIEN BROTHERS...







MEANWHILE, BATMAN AND TIM ARE NEARING THE CAMP WITH EXPECTANT EAGERNESS!

BOY! ALL I WANT IS A CRACK AT THAT LITTLE CORPORAL!

YOU'LL GET IT, I PROMISE YOU THAT!

SAY! THAT TRAILER! I SWEAR I SAW BOYD'S MEN IN THAT CAR!

COME ON, THEN! LET'S CHASE THEM!

FROM THE REAR OF THE TRAILER, THE NEFARIOUS NAPOLEON SPOTS THEM!

THE BATMAN! HE MUST HAVE RECOGNIZED US! THIS CALLS FOR AN AMBUSH!

BUT OTHER EYES...KEEN, CLEAR YOUNG ONES...ARE FOCUSED ON THE SPEEDING TRAILER!

THERE'S BOYD AND HIS MEN! AND THAT'S THE BATMOBILE CHASING THEM!

A MIDGET RACER! BOYD'S ESCAPING IN THE OTHER DIRECTION!

WE CAN'T GET DOWN IN TIME! I GUESS THEIR TEAM WINS!

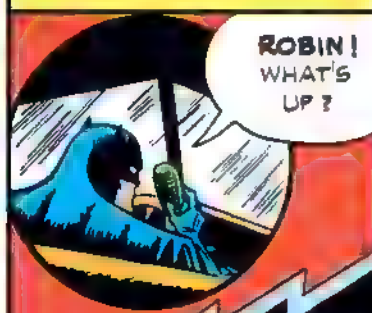
THE WATCHERS FROM ABOVE WITNESS A STARTLING SPECTACLE!

HE WON'T GET AWAY FROM US! BATMAN AND TIM WILL BE FOOLED AND WE'LL GET HIM, AFTER ALL!

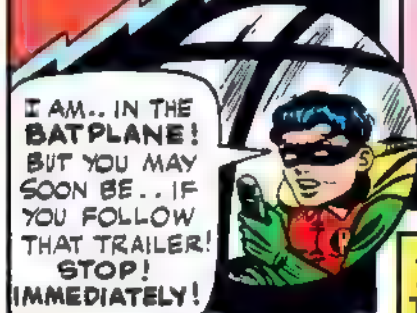
BUT A MOMENT LATER

SOMETHING'S UP! THEY'RE LEAVING THE TRAILER BEHIND! I'LL BET IT'S A TRAP! CAN'T TAKE ANY CHANCES! IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO GETS BOYD! I'VE GOT TO WARN THE BATMAN!

WIRELESS QUICKLY CONNECTS THE TWO FIGHTERS!



ROBIN!
WHAT'S
UP?



I AM... IN THE
BATPLANE!
BUT YOU MAY
SOON BE... IF
YOU FOLLOW
THAT TRAILER!
STOP!
IMMEDIATELY!

WITH THE
UTMOST CON-
FIDENCE IN
HIS YOUNG
AIDE'S SHREW-
D JUDGMENT,
BATMAN
OBEYS
BLINDLY!

WOW!
JUST IN TIME!
GOOD OLD
ROBIN!



A BOMB!
WE WOULD
HAVE BEEN
BLOWN UP!

BOOM!

SCREECH

BATMAN! DON'T FOL-
LOW THE TRAILER-
CAR! BOYD'S MEN ARE
IN IT... THEY CAN BE
CAUGHT LATER!
I'LL GUIDE YOU!

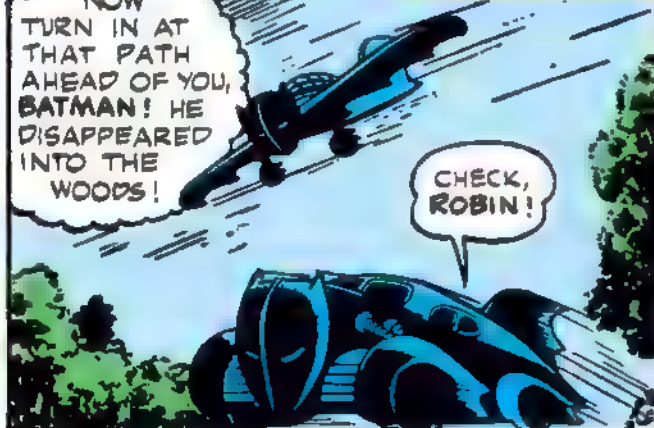


TEAM-
WORK, EH,
ROBIN? OKAY!

A GOOD EX-
AMPLE FOR
TIM AND
NICK!

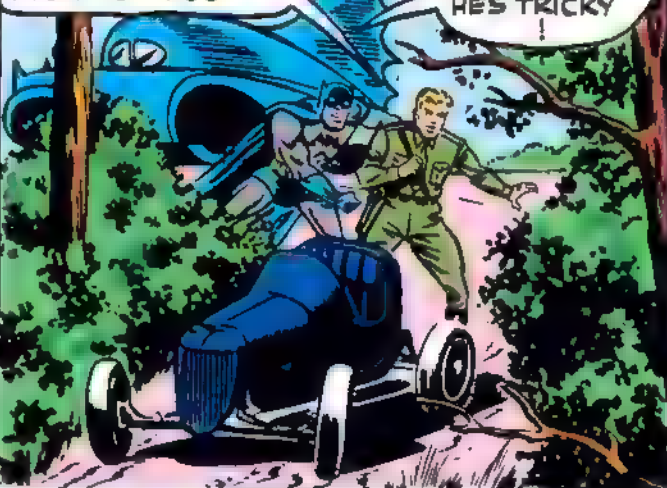
AS IF SYNCHRO-
NIZED BY GEARS,
THE DUO WORKS IN
PERFECT HARMONY!

NOW
TURN IN AT
THAT PATH
AHEAD OF YOU,
BATMAN! HE
DISAPPEARED
INTO THE
WOODS!



CHECK,
ROBIN!

HE LEFT HIS CAR
HERE AND WENT
AHEAD ON FOOT!



CAREFUL, TIM!
HE'S TRICKY!

A WARNING BELL CLINGS IN THE BATMAN'S MIND AS
THEY BURST THROUGH THE WOODS INTO A CLEARING!



THOSE LEAVES DIDN'T
FALL SO REGULARLY!
THEY LOOK AS IF
THEY'D BEEN
PLACED THERE!
STOP, TIM! WAIT..

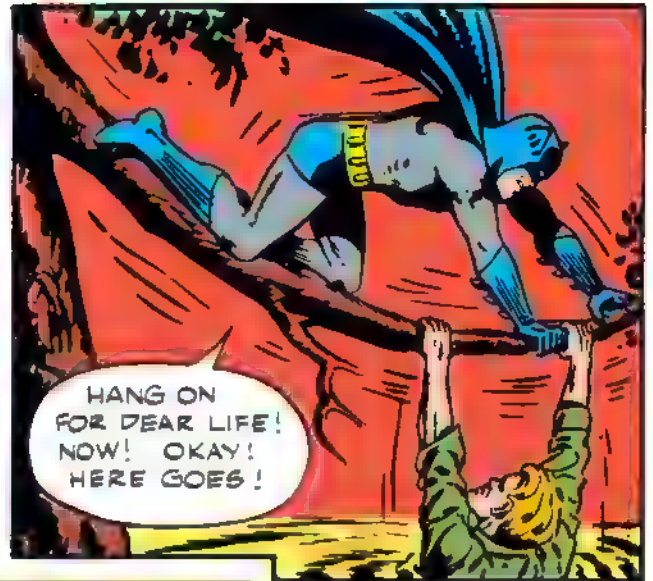
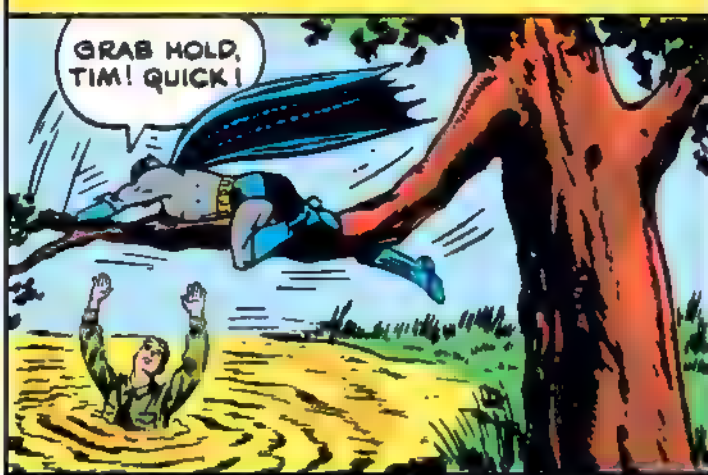
TOO
LATE!

HELP!
QUICKSAND!
I'M
SINKING!

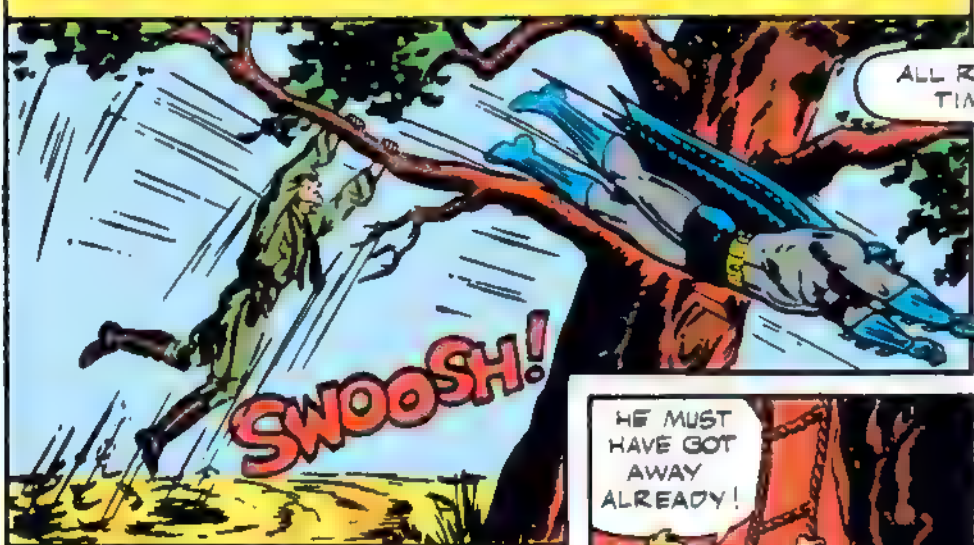
BOYD SPREAD THOSE LEAVES
OVER THAT AREA TO TRAP US!
I CAN'T PULL
TIM OUT
MYSELF... THE
SUCTION IS
TOO STRONG!



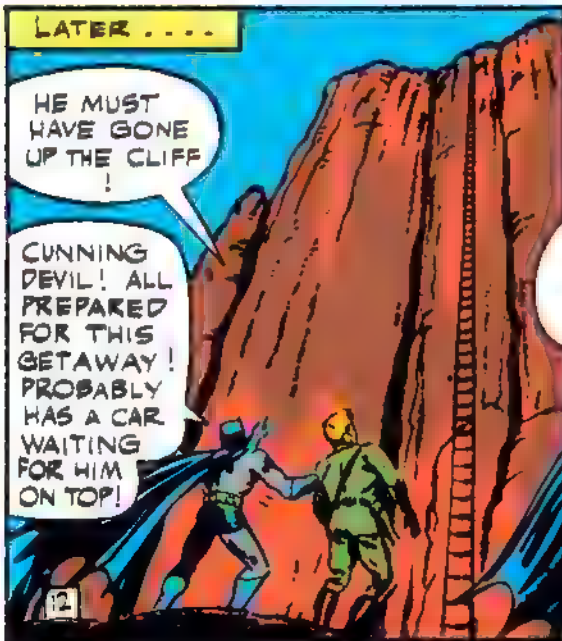
DESPERATELY, THE BATMAN LOOKS AROUND... AND THEN HIS NIMBLE BRAINS EVOLVE A DARING PLAN!

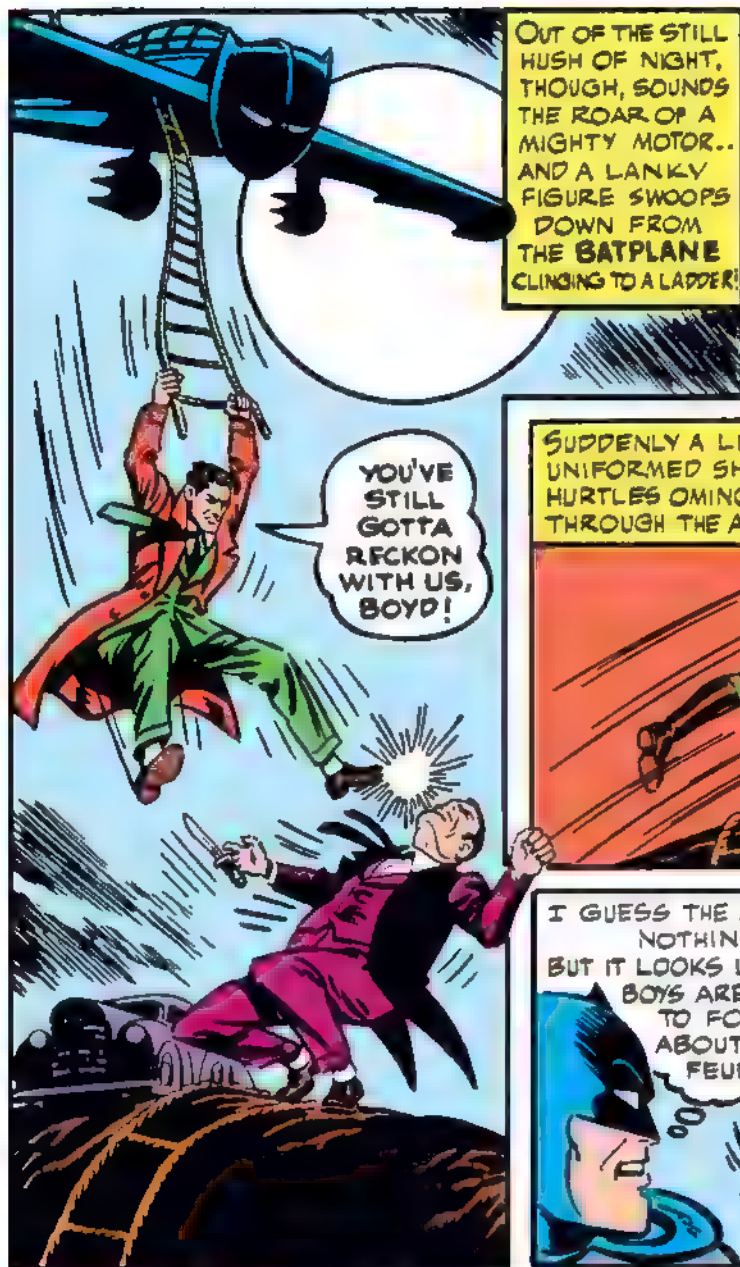


TENSED, COILED MUSCLES CARRY THE ACROBATMAN UP IN A MIGHTY LEAP...



..AND AS HIS WEIGHT LEAVES THE TREE, JIM IS JERKED CLEAR OF THE QUICKSAND!





OUT OF THE STILL HUSH OF NIGHT, THOUGH, SOUNDS THE ROAR OF A MIGHTY MOTOR... AND A LANKY FIGURE SWOOPS DOWN FROM THE BATPLANE CLINGING TO A LADDER!

YOU'RE STILL GOTTA RECKON WITH US, BOYD!



I'LL PUMP YOU FULL OF LEAD, O'BRIEN... JUST LIKE I DID YOUR FATHER!

WHY, YOU SNEAKING MURDERER! I'LL...

SUDDENLY A LITHE, UNIFORMED SHAPE HURTLES OMINOUSLY THROUGH THE AIR!



THANKS, TIM! I WONDER WHAT THE LITTLE CORPORAL DOES WITHOUT HIS GUN?

ONE GOOD TURN DESERVES ANOTHER, NICK!

I GUESS THE ANSWER IS... NOTHING! BUT IT LOOKS LIKE THOSE BOYS ARE GOING TO FORGET ABOUT THEIR FEUD!



THIS ONE'S FOR DAD. YOU YELLOW CUR!



LET THEM BOTH GET CREDIT FOR BOYD'S CAPTURE! MAKE 'EM FEEL BETTER ABOUT THEIR DAD!



THE LITTLE CORPORAL'S WATER-LOO!

ONLY HE'S NOT GOING TO COOL OFF ON AN ISLAND! HE'S GOING TO BURN IN A HOT SEAT!



DAD WOULD HAVE LIKED IT THIS WAY, NICK! GUESS WE'RE REAL BROTHERS IN LAW NOW, EH, NICK?

YES, THANKS TO BATMAN AND ROBIN! THEY SHOWED US THE WAY!

THE END



No. 72

ADDED ATTRACTION!
BOY COMMANDOS



Detective COMICS

FEB.

BATMAN
& ROBIN
FACE A
TERRIBLE
TYRANT IN
"LICENSE
FOR
LARCENY"



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
BOY WONDER

SUAVE AND SINISTER, A POMPOUS FUEHRER OF FELONS RATIONS CRIME FOR HIS HOODLUM HORDES AND TAXES EACH RUGGED RUFFIAN FOR THE PRIVILEGE OF BREAKING THE LAW! UNDER HIS DESPOTIC RULE, DEEDS OF DESPERATION PAY DIVIDENDS.... UNTIL THE DYNAMIC **BATMAN**, ALONG WITH DARING **ROBIN**, THE BOY WONDER, FIND THEMSELVES FACING DEATH AT THE HANDS OF THE FIENDISH FINANCIER OF THE UNDERWORLD, AS HE ISSUES HIS LAST...

"LICENSE FOR LARCENY!"



IN THE CENTER OF GOTHAM'S FINANCIAL DISTRICT... TWO PAIRS OF KEEN EYES STARE AT THE DOOR THAT LEADS TO A LUXURIOUS BUSINESS OFFICE...

THIS IS THE PLACE WHERE PEOPLE ARE SUPPOSED TO DOUBLE THEIR MONEY IN SIX MONTHS!

LARSON INC.
J. SPENCER LARSON
PRESIDENT
INVESTMENTS

I DON'T BELIEVE IT, BRUCE! IT'S TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE!

I'M INCLINED TO AGREE WITH YOU, DICK... BUT WE CAN'T BE SURE UNTIL WE INVESTIGATE! I'M GOING TO SEE MR. LARSON!

AS THE DUO WALKS INTO AN INNER OFFICE...

HOW DO YOU DO, GENTLEMEN! WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU?

I'VE COME TO INVEST SOME MONEY FOR MYSELF AND MY WARD, DICK GRAYSON!

YOU'RE JUST IN TIME TO PURCHASE OUR LAST SHARES! MOST OF THEM ALREADY HAVE BEEN BOUGHT BY PROMINENT BUSINESSMEN!

AS BRUCE WAYNE HANDS OVER HIS CHECK, HIS EYES FOCUS UPON A CONSPICUOUS MOLE ON THE HAND OF LARSON...

YOU'LL DOUBLE YOUR MONEY WITHIN HALF A YEAR!

I HOPE SO, MR. LARSON!

IS LARSON THE FINANCIAL GENIUS HE PRETENDS TO BE? LET US FOLLOW HIM AS HE LEAVES HIS LUXURIOUS OFFICE...

GOOD DAY, MR. LARSON!

GOOD DAY!

LET US STICK CLOSE AS HE SCURRIES FROM DOORWAY TO DOORWAY TO RID HIMSELF OF POSSIBLE PURSUERS, AND ENDS UP...

FOR WEEKS I'VE BEEN PAYING MY MEN WITH THE MONEY I RAISED... NOW IT'S TIME I STARTED TO COLLECT SOME PROFIT!

AN AMAZING TRANSFORMATION OCCURS...

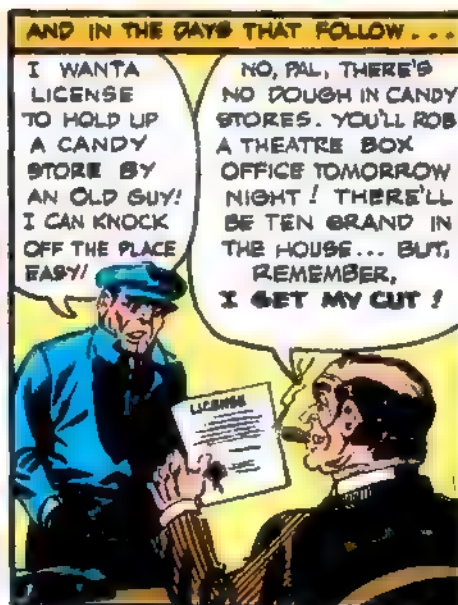
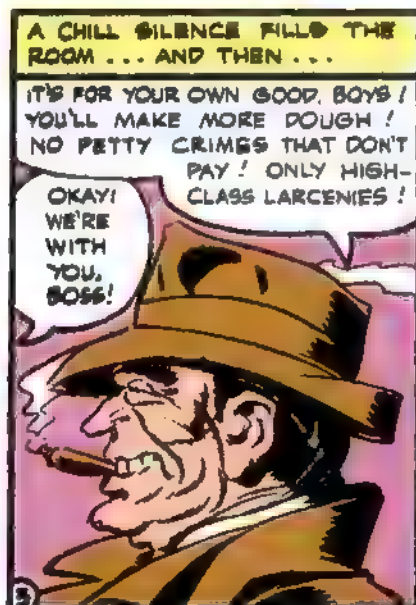
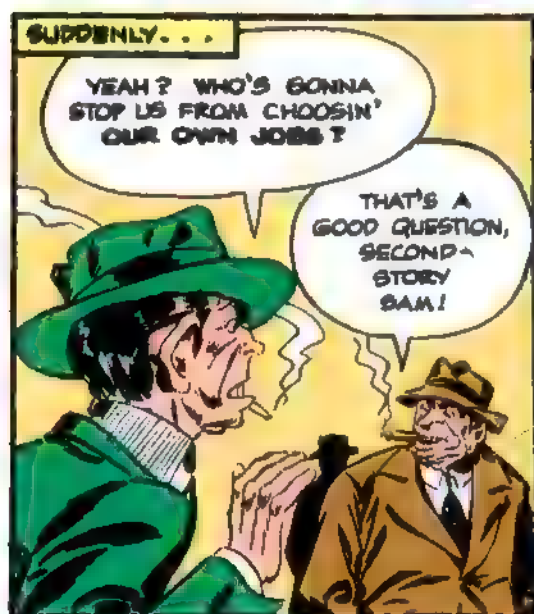
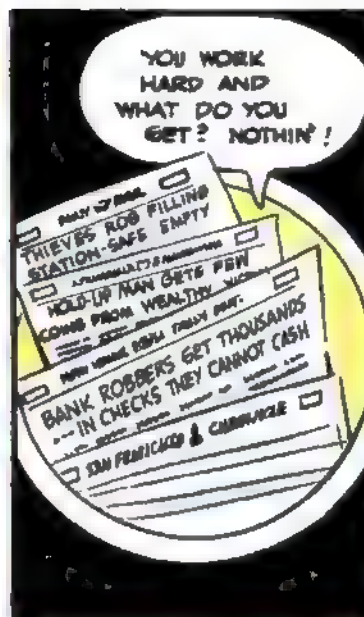
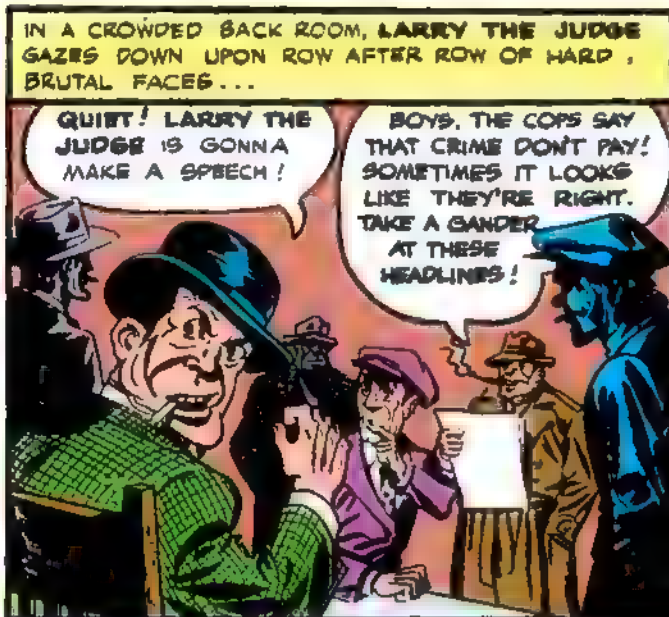
I REMOVE A LITTLE MAKEUP, AND MY SCAR SHOWS AGAIN! I WONDER WHAT THEY'D SAY IN FINANCIAL CIRCLES IF IT WERE KNOWN I WAS LARRY THE JUDGE?

J. SPENCER LARSON, DIGNIFIED BUSINESS FINANCIER, BECOMES LARRY THE JUDGE, NOTORIOUS UNDERWORLD CZAR!

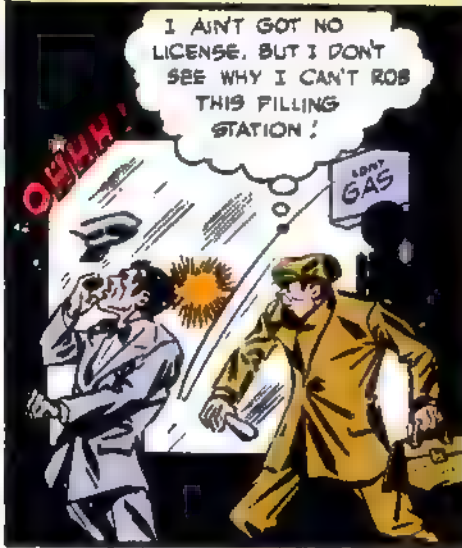
LATER, IN A GANGSTER HIDEOUT, DEEP IN THE CRIME-RIDDEN SLUMS...

NOW TO CONVINCE THE BOYS THEY'D BETTER PLAY BALL WITH ME!

POOL ROOM



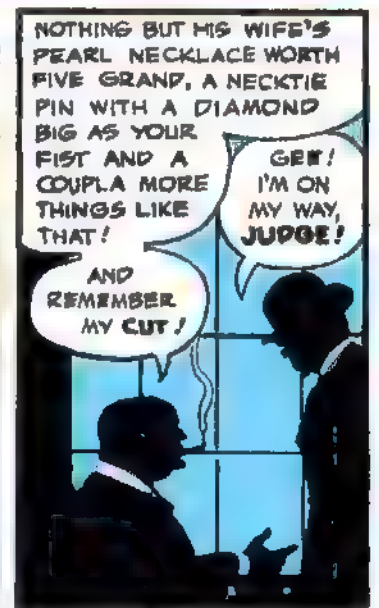
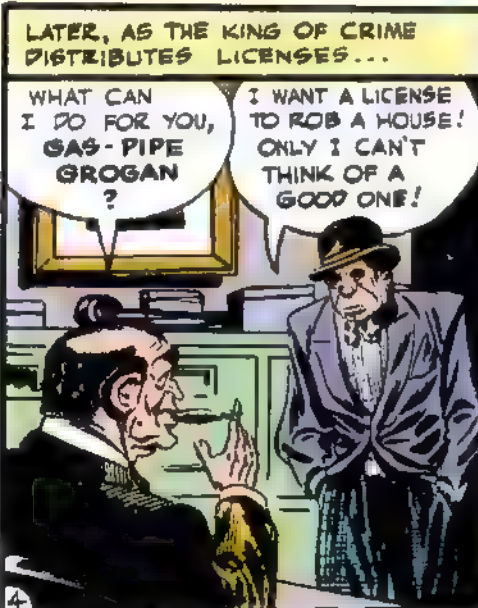
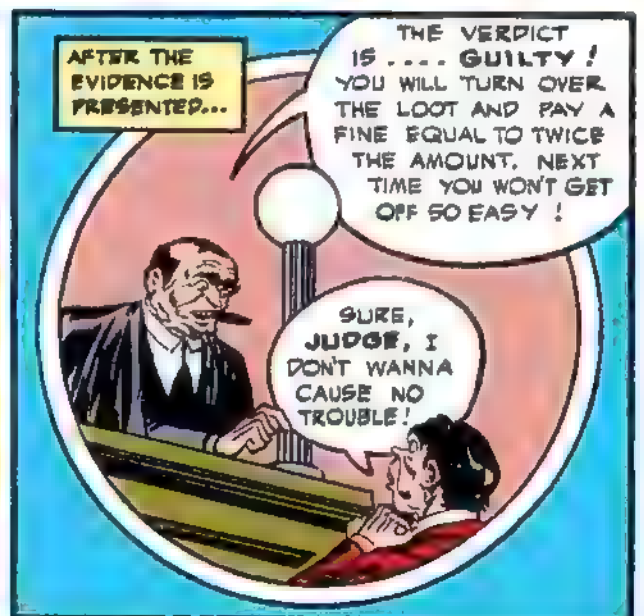
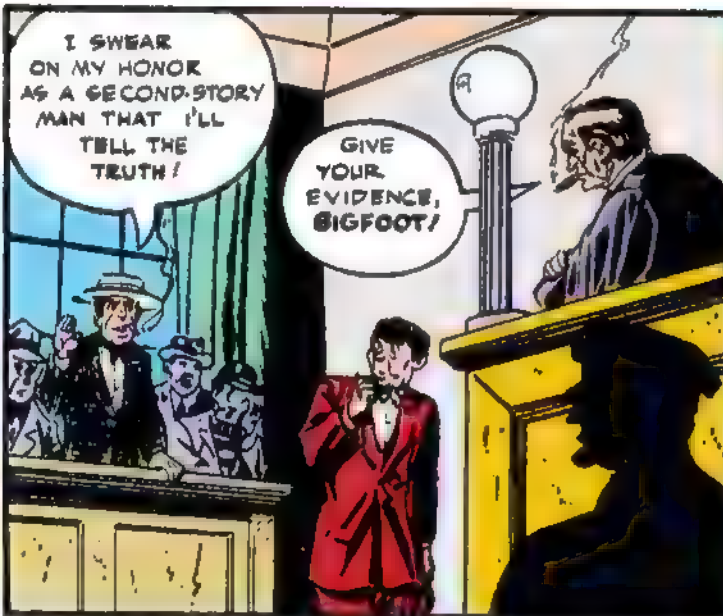
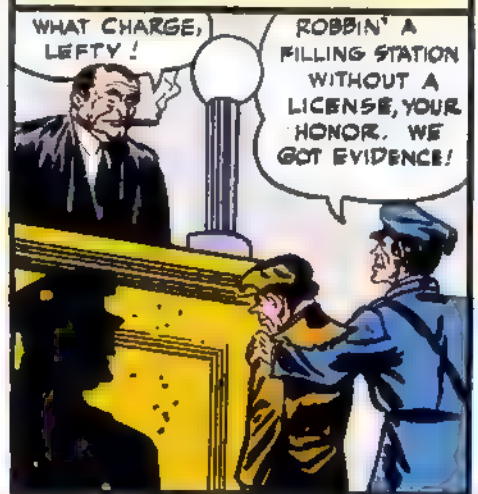
OCCASIONALLY, A HOODLUM REBELS AGAINST THE CRIME CLAR'S DECREES...

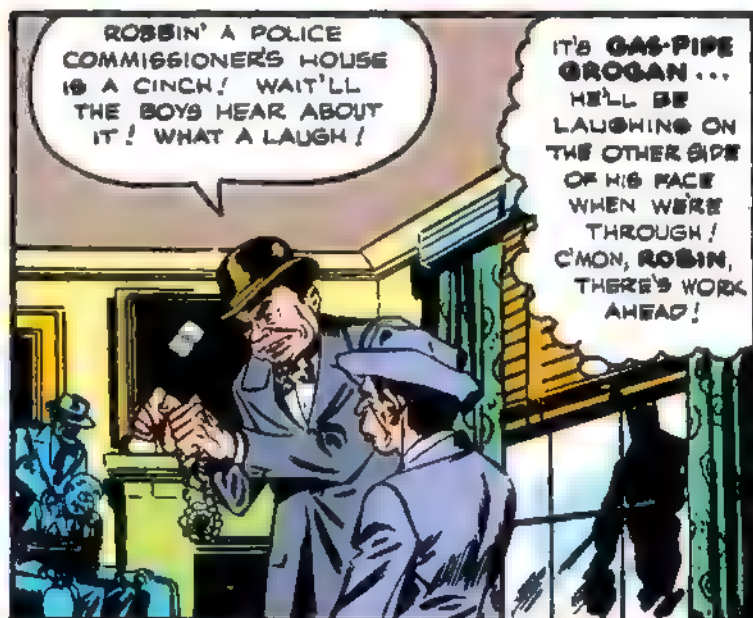
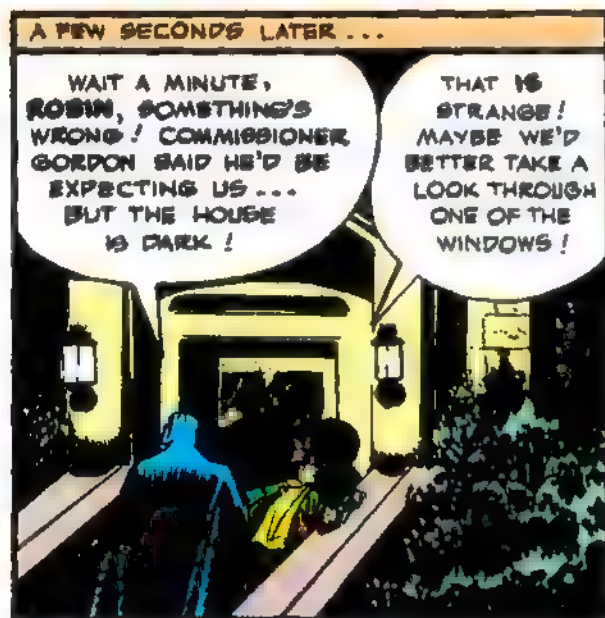


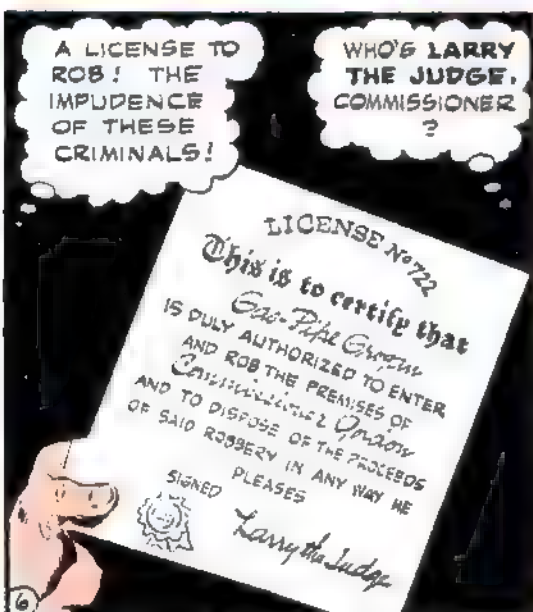
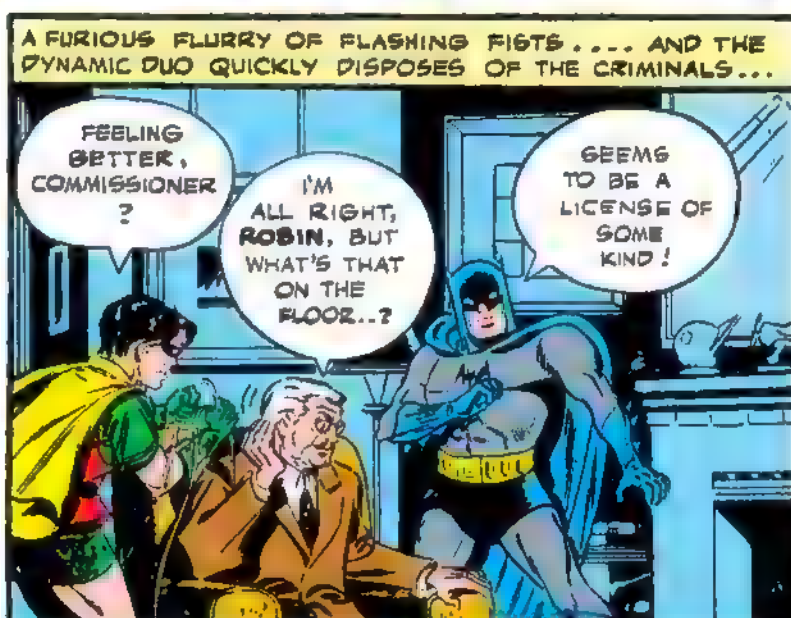
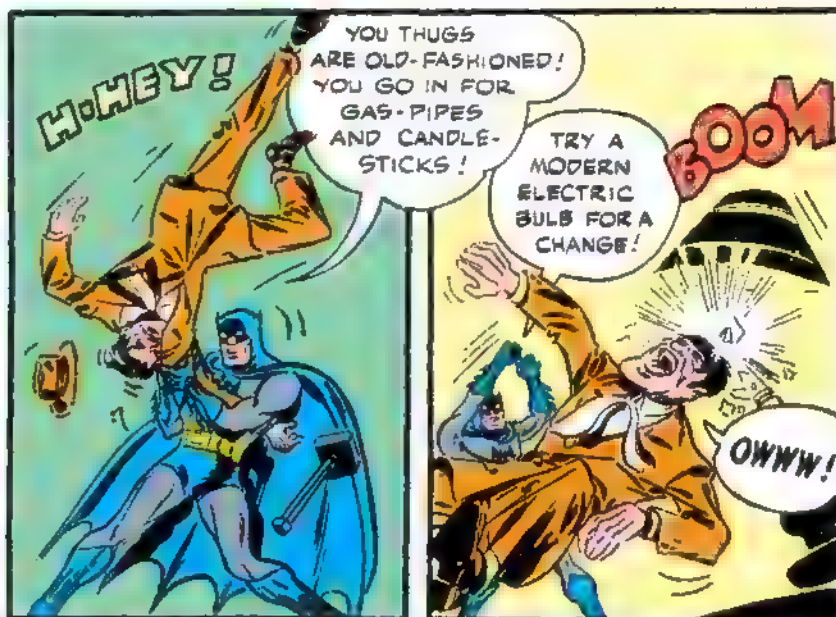
RETRIBUTION, HOWEVER, IS SWIFT! A SHORT TIME LATER...

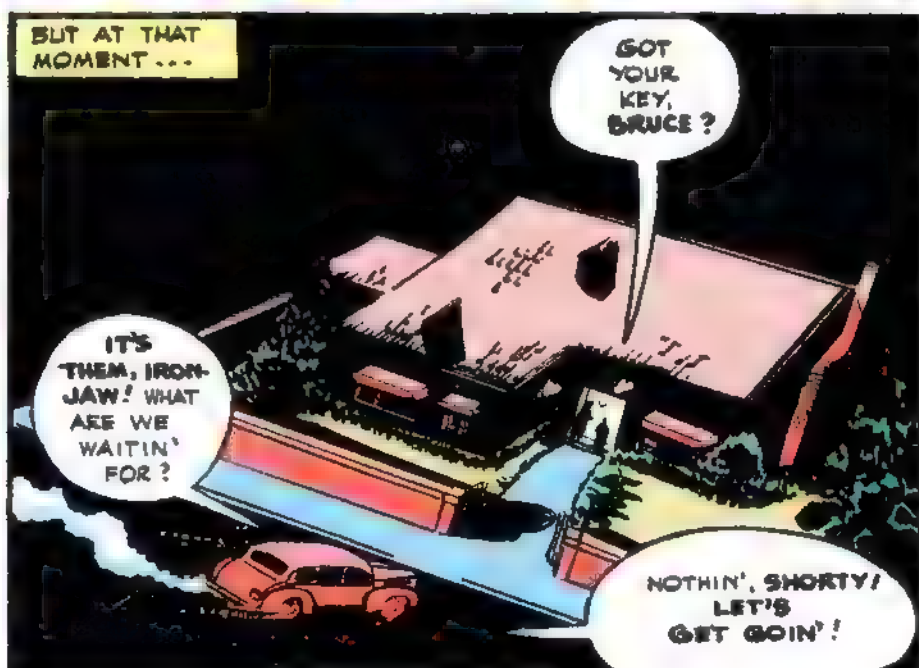
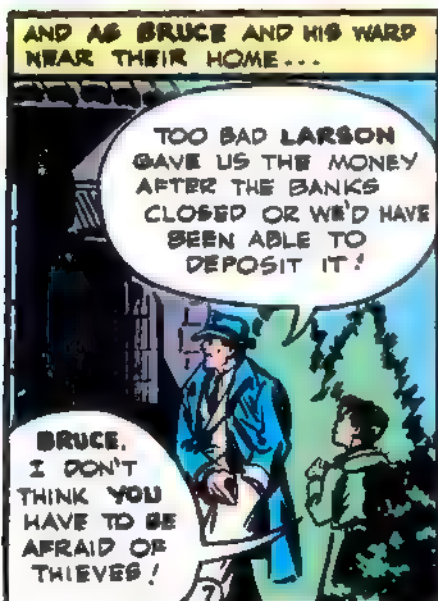
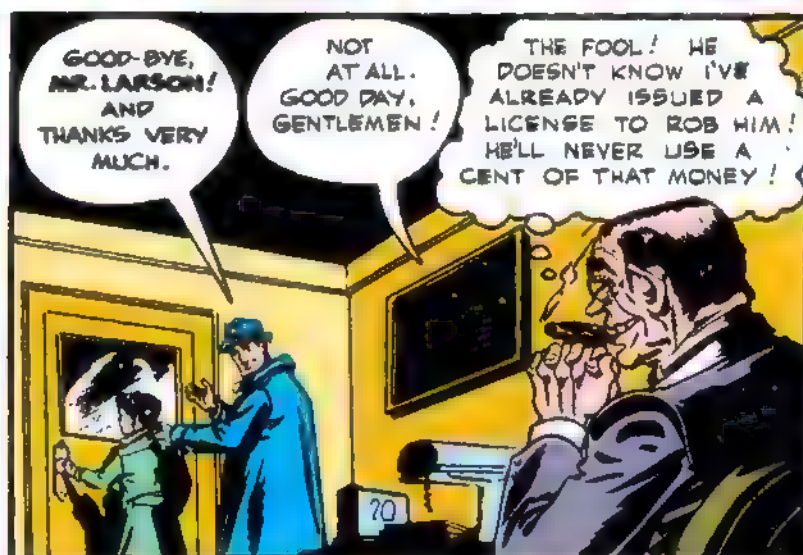
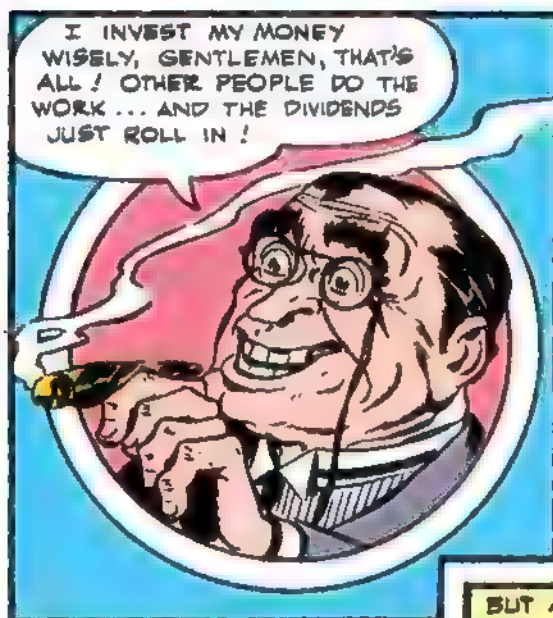


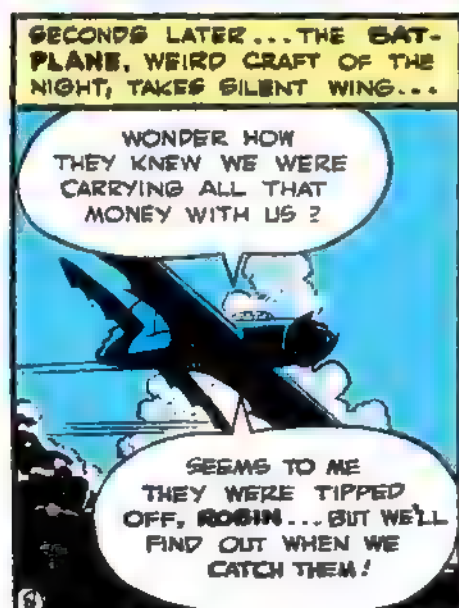
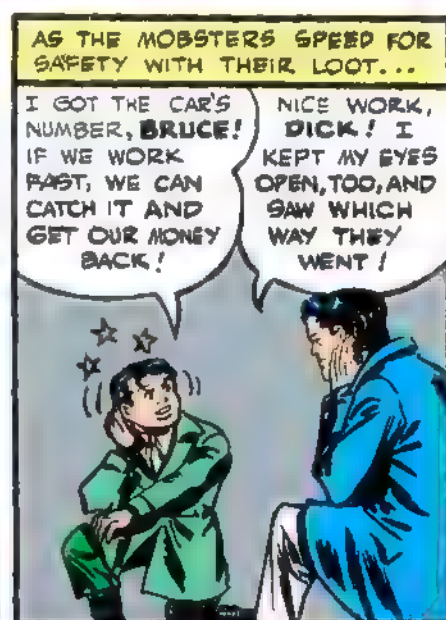
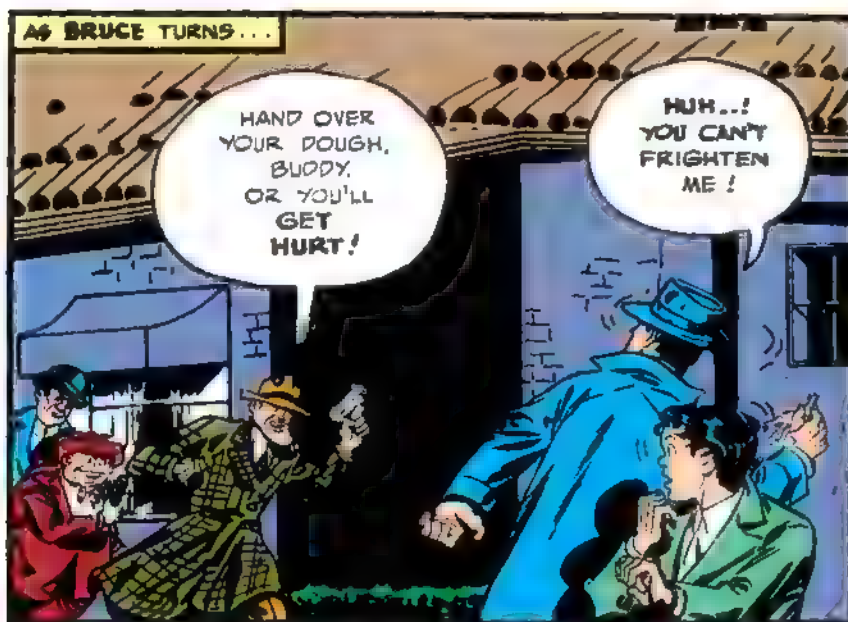
FOR THE DESPOT OF THE UNDER-WORLD IS BOTH JUDGE AND JURY IN A GRIM TRIAL OF THOSE WHO BREAK HIS LAWS!











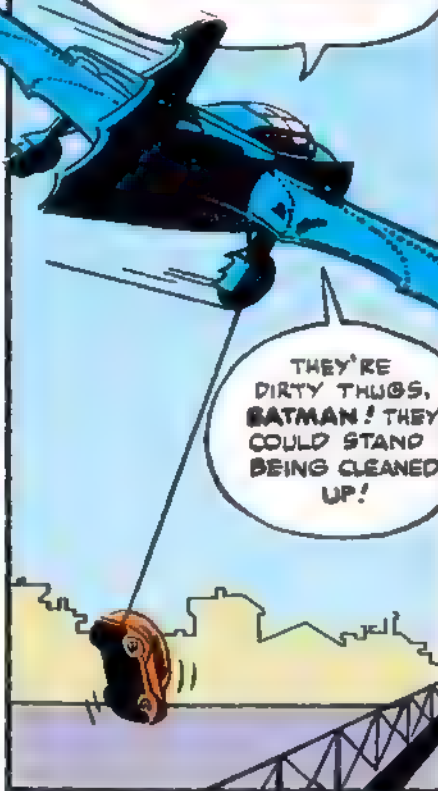
A LONG ROPE SWINGS AGAINST THE RACING AUTOMOBILE A HUGE IRON HOOK CATCHES AGAINST A STEEL ROD . . .



HEY, WHAT... ?

IT'S A BIG BOY, BOSS! IT'S KIDNAPPIN' US!

THE WATER ISN'T DEEP ENOUGH FOR THEM TO DROWN, **ROBIN!** DO YOU THINK A DUCKING WOULD DO THEM GOOD?



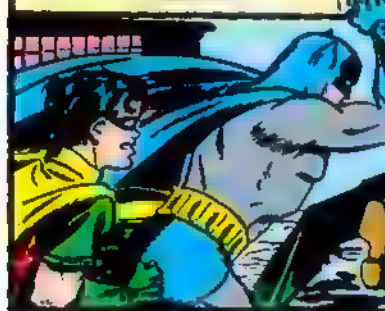
THEY'RE DIRTY THUGS, **BATMAN!** THEY COULD STAND BEING CLEANED UP!



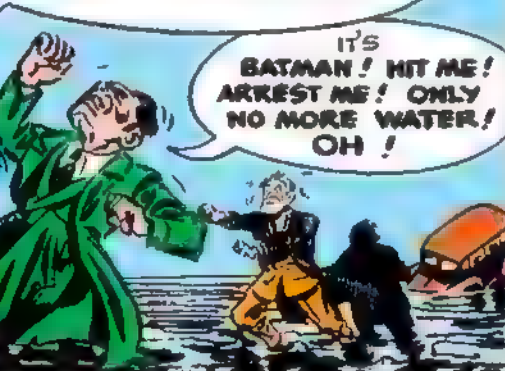
WATER!
IT'S DANGEROUS!

THIS IS THE COITIEST TRICK ANYBODY EVER PLAYED ON ME!

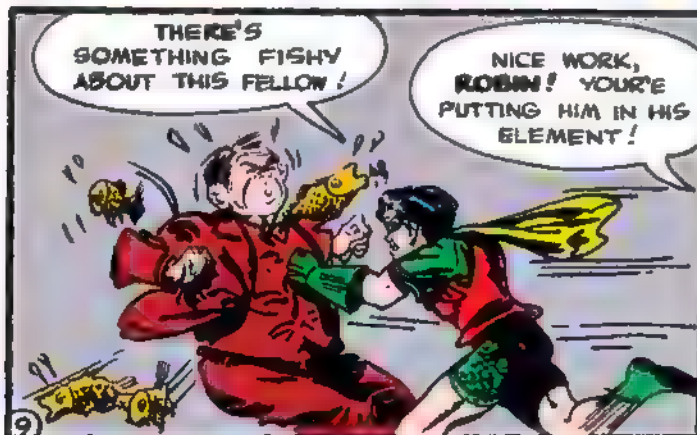
THE BATPLANE LANDS SKILLFULLY ALONG THE RIVER BANK AND AS THE POWERED THUGS WADE ASHORE . . .



YOU'RE JUST A SMALL-TIME CROOK, BUT YOU'RE GOING TO MAKE A BIG SPLASH!

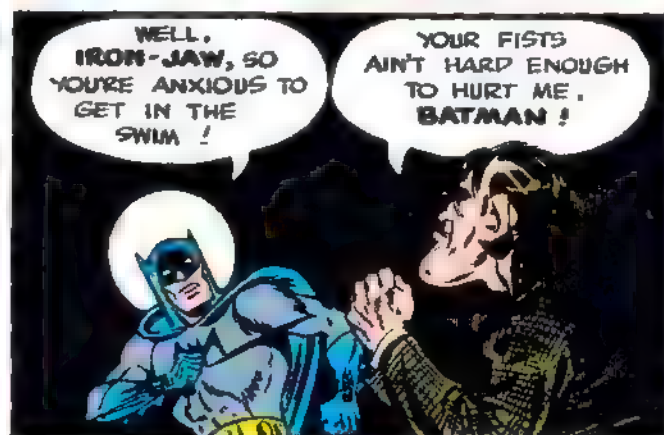


IT'S **BATMAN!** HIT ME! ARREST ME! ONLY NO MORE WATER! OH!



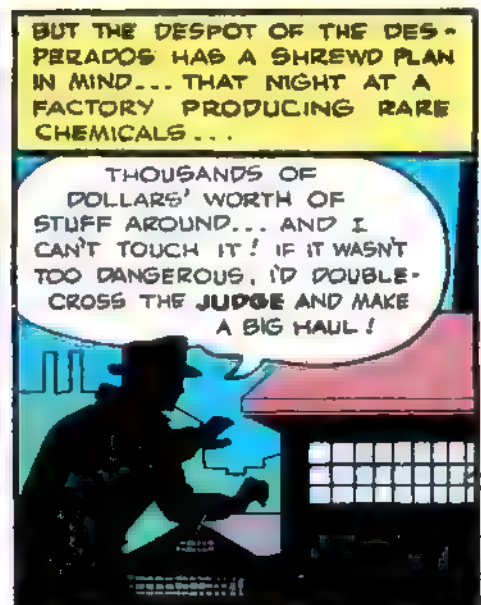
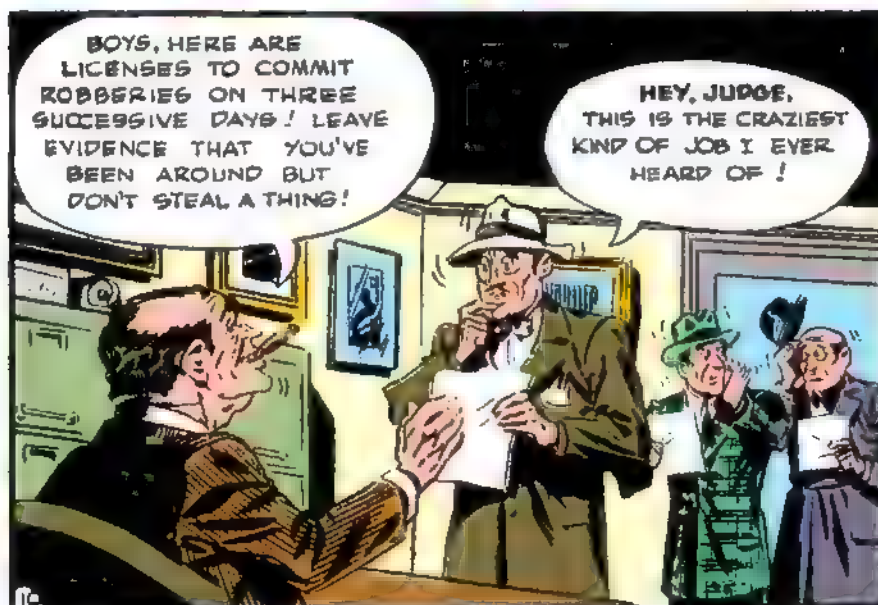
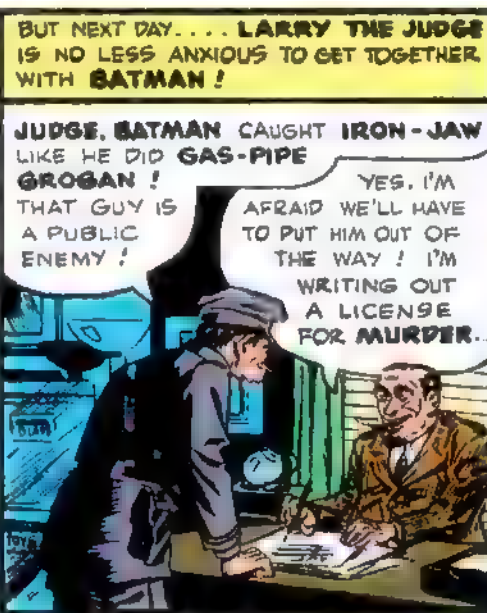
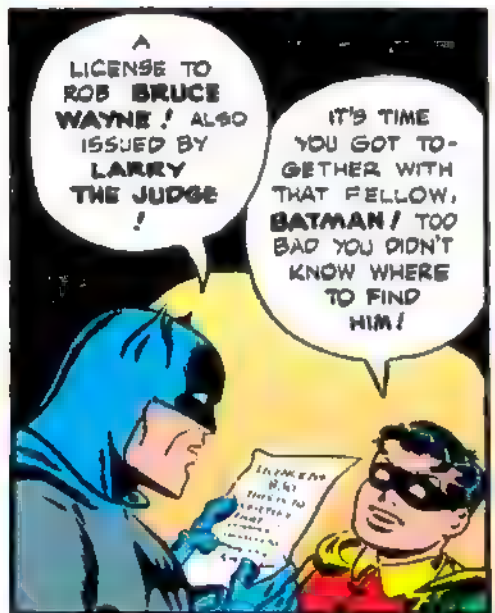
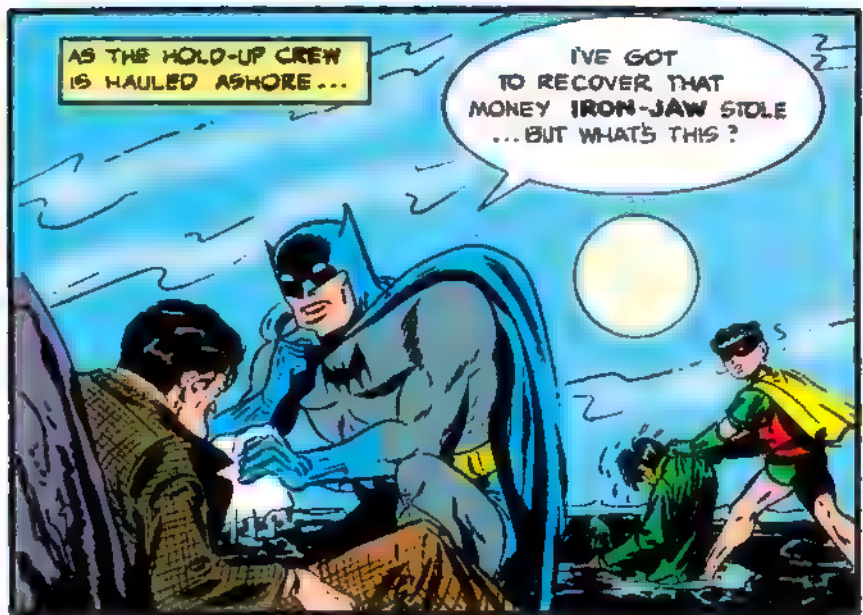
THERE'S SOMETHING FISHY ABOUT THIS FELLOW!

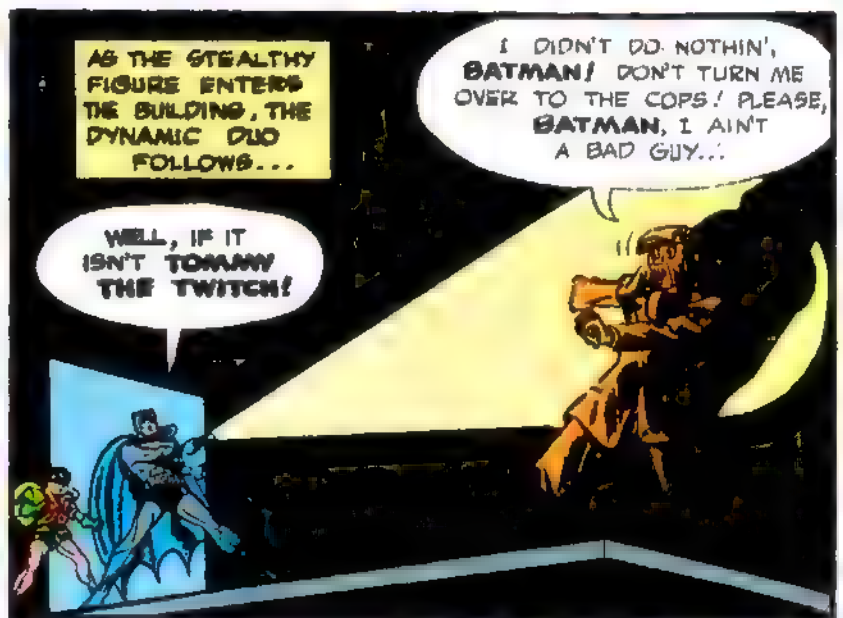
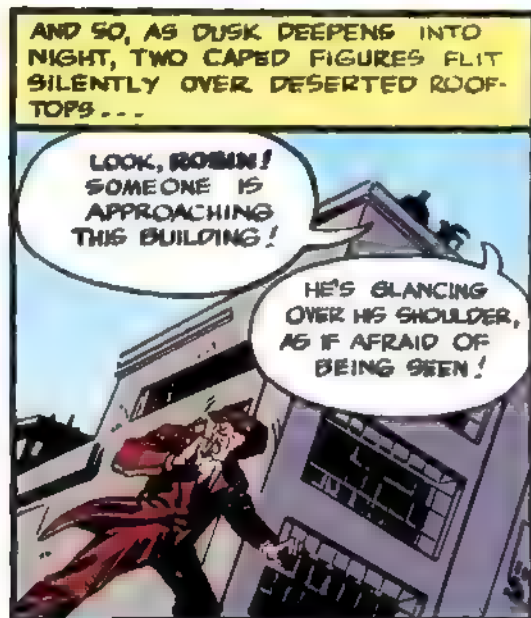
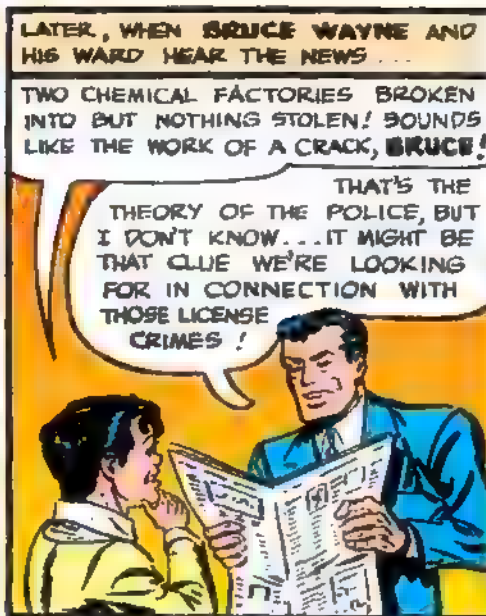
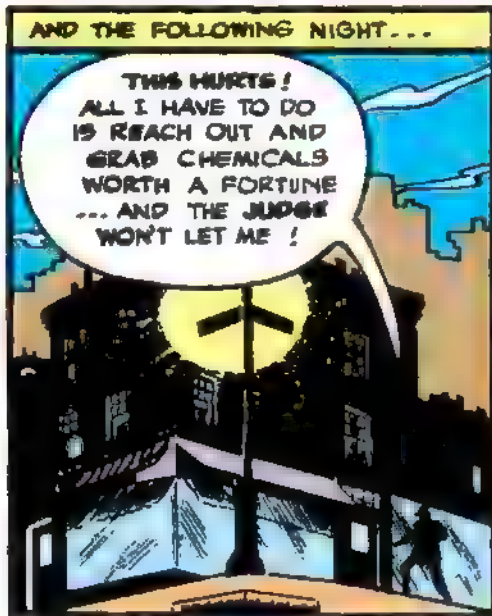
NICE WORK, **ROBIN!** YOUR'E PUTTING HIM IN HIS ELEMENT!



WELL, **IRON-JAW**, SO YOU'RE ANXIOUS TO GET IN THE SWIM!

YOUR FISTS AIN'T HARD ENOUGH TO HURT ME, **BATMAN!**





UNEXPECTEDLY . . .

NOT
TO SPEAK OF
BELLOW-
ACHING
!

ATCHOO!!
ATCHOO!!

YOU FELL INTO MY TRAP,
BATMAN! I KNEW YOU'D BE
INTERESTED IN APPARENTLY
AIMLESS ROBBERIES EVEN
THOUGH THE POLICE
WEREN'T!

YES! NOW
TO TAKE YOU TO A
CONVENIENT PLACE
WHERE I CAN USE
MY LICENSE TO
MURDER! YOU
SHOULD BE FLATTERED,
BATMAN! IT'S THE
ONLY ONE I'VE EVER
SIGNED!

SO THIS
IS LARRY
THE
JUDGE!

YOU
ANTICIPATE
EVERY ONE OF MY
MOVES,
DON'T YOU
?

ONE PEEP
OUT OF YOU GUYS, AND
YOU GET SLUGGED!

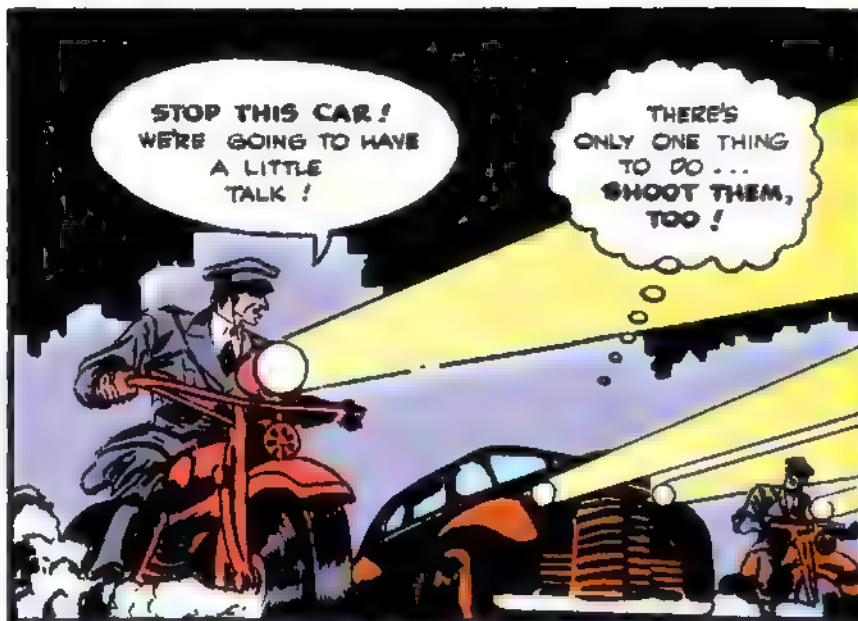
AS THE CAR SNAKES
THROUGH THE MOURN-
FUL HILLS HURTLING
THEM TOWARDS THEIR
DOOM...

LOOKS LIKE
THE END THIS TIME,
BATMAN!

SUDDENLY...!

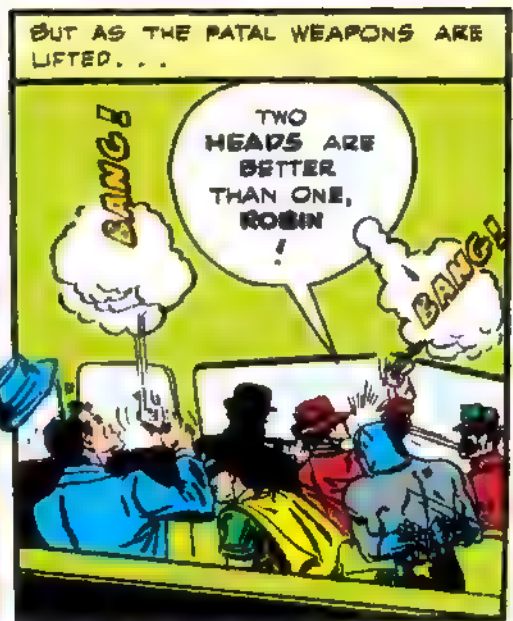
A
POLICE WHISTLE!
STATE TROOPERS
MUST BE AFTER
US!

IMPOSSIBLE!
WE'RE OBEYING
THE SPEED LIMIT!
WE'RE NOT
BREAKING
ANY
LAWS!



STOP THIS CAR!
WE'RE GOING TO HAVE
A LITTLE
TALK!

THERE'S
ONLY ONE THING
TO DO...
SHOOT THEM,
TOO!

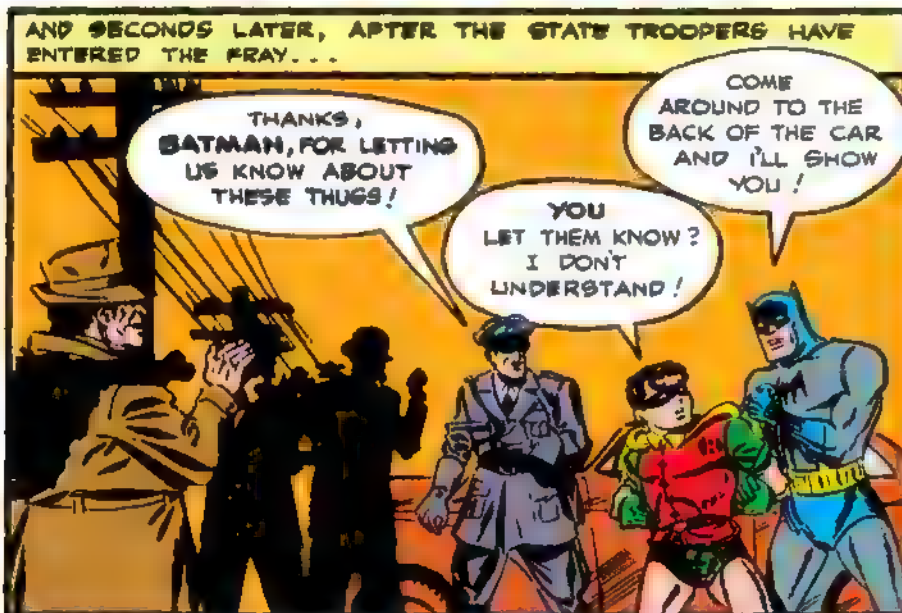


BUT AS THE FATAL WEAPONS ARE
LIFTED...

TWO
HEADS ARE
BETTER
THAN ONE,
ROBIN!

BANG!

BANG!



THANKS,
BATMAN, FOR LETTING
US KNOW ABOUT
THESE THUGS!

YOU
LET THEM KNOW?
I DON'T
UNDERSTAND!

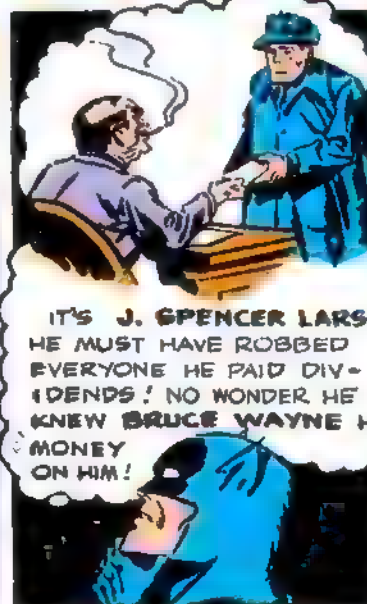
COME
AROUND TO THE
BACK OF THE CAR
AND I'LL SHOW
YOU!



AS THE SULLEN THUGS STEP FOR-
WARD TO BE HANDCUFFED...

SO YOU'RE THE FELLOW THEY CALL
'JUDGE'! YOU'LL FACE A REAL
JUDGE
SOON!

THAT MOLE
ON THE BACK OF
HIS HAND... I'VE
SEEN IT BEFORE!



IT'S J. SPENCER LARSON!
HE MUST HAVE ROBBED
EVERYONE HE PAID DIV-
IDENDS! NO WONDER HE
KNEW BRUCE WAYNE HAD
MONEY
ON HIM!



AS WE RAN PAST THE REAR
OF THE CAR IN THE DARK, I
THREW MY CLOAK OVER
THE LICENSE
PLATE!

WOW! LARRY
THE JUDGE HANDS
OUT LICENSES...AND
YOU CAUGHT HIM
BECAUSE HE
DIDN'T SHOW
ONE!

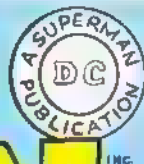


LATER...

IT WAS PROFITABLE
WHILE IT LASTED, DICK,
BUT LARSON'S BUSINESS
IS FINISHED NOW! ALL HIS
DIVIDENDS ARE GOING
TO CHARITY!

THE END

BATMAN
No.15



BATMAN

FEB.
MAR.

REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.



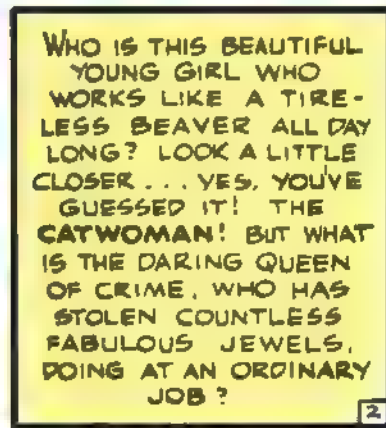
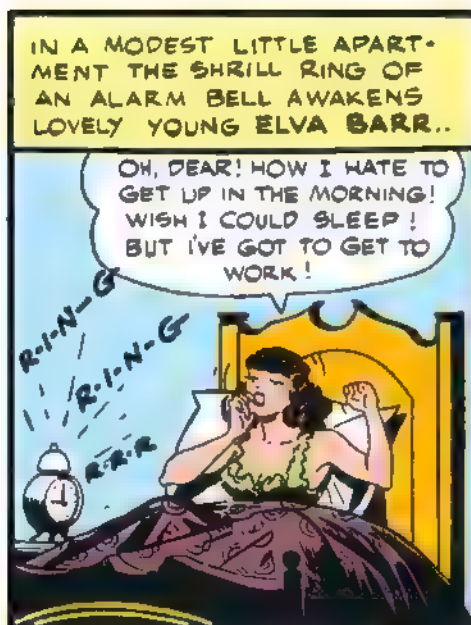
BATMAN

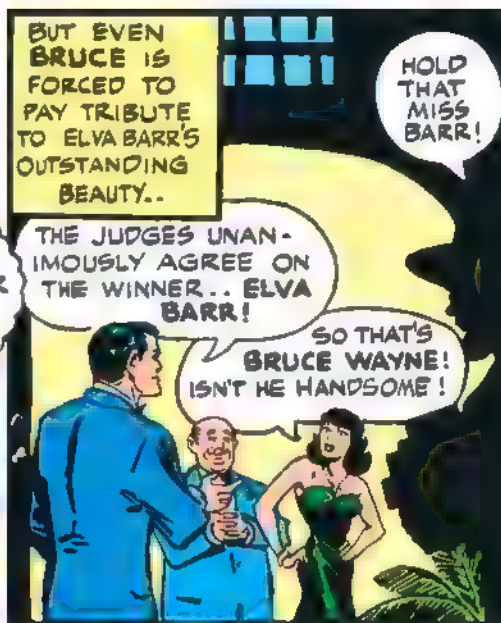
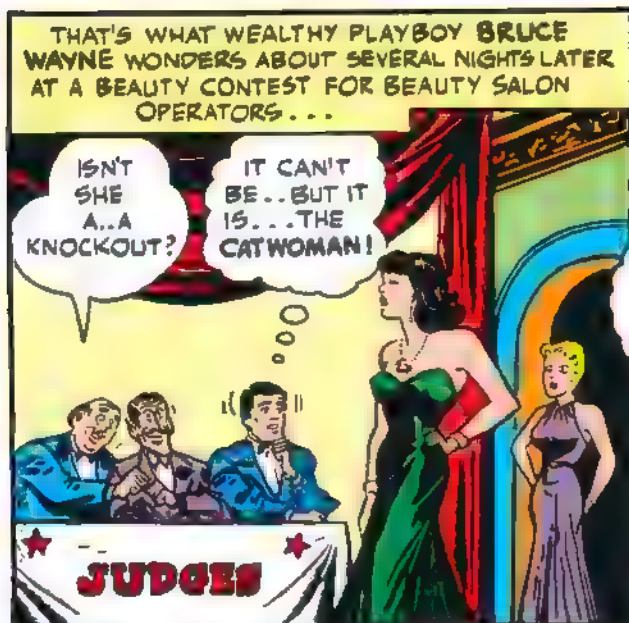
WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY WONDER-

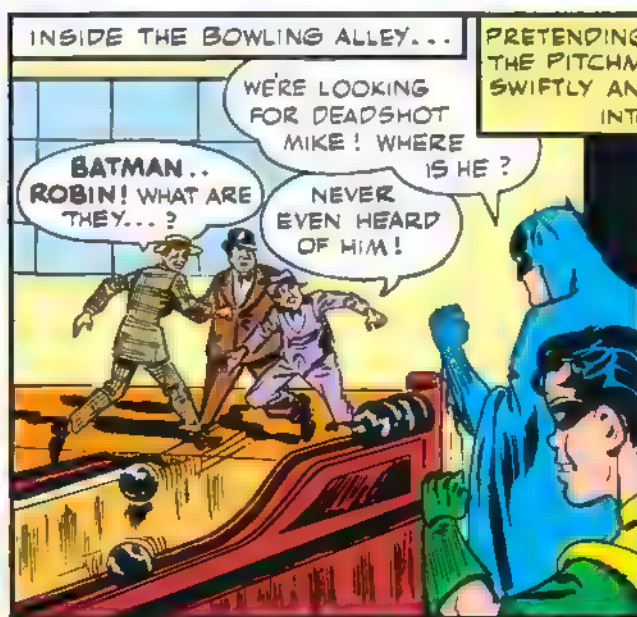
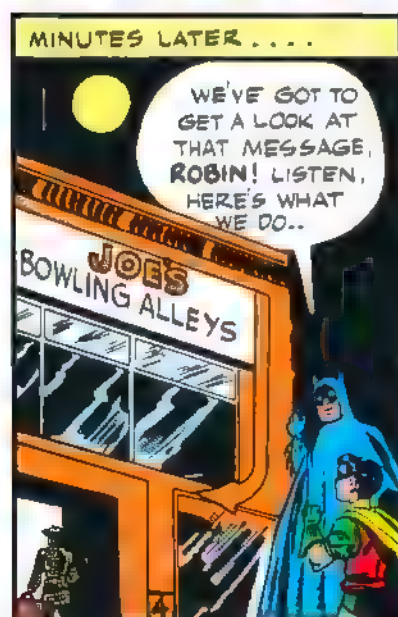
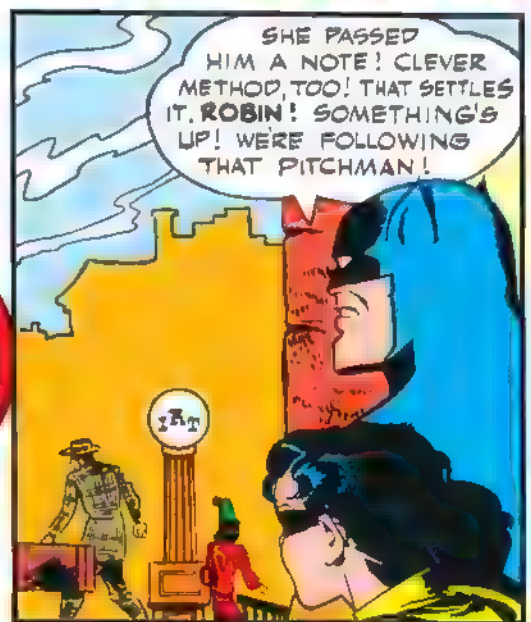
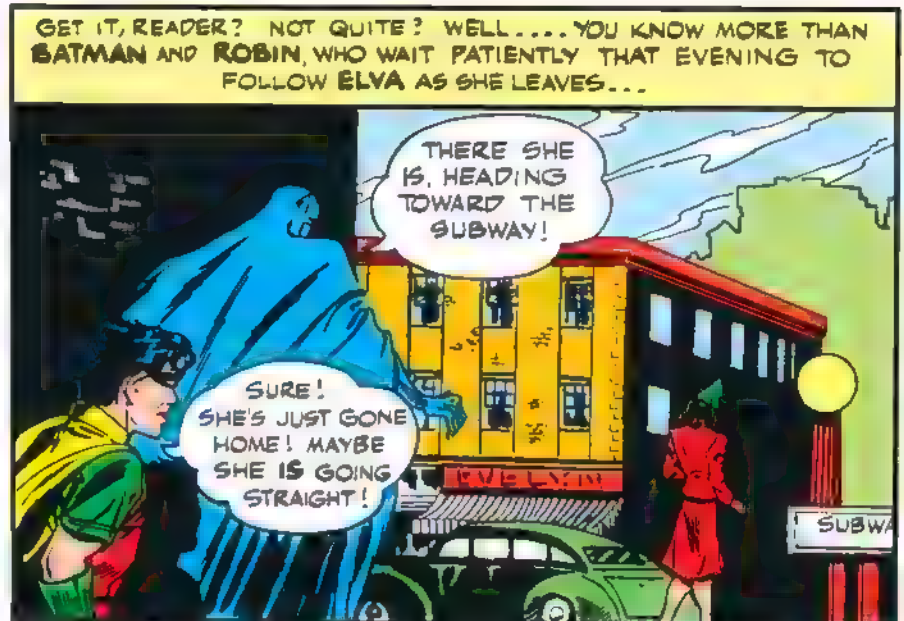
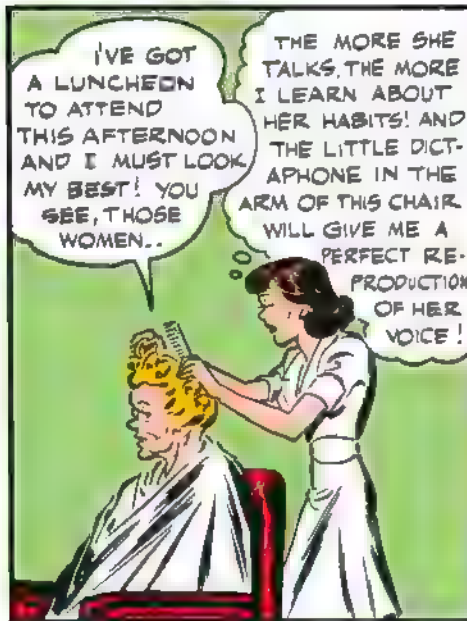
BENEATH THE DARK DENIM OF THAT STERN FIGURE OF THE NIGHT... BEATS A TENDER, GENEROUS HEART! A HEART THAT CAN BE MOVED BY SORROW, THAT CAN BE MERCIFUL TO THE UNFORTUNATE... AND THAT CAN SOFTEN TO THE WHISPERS OF LOVE! AND WHEN THE CATWOMAN, THAT STRANGE FIGURE OF THE UNDERWORLD, ARCH ENEMY OF THE DYNAMIC DUO... REAPPEARS WITH A NEW BLUEPRINT FOR BANDITRY AND FALLS IN LOVE WITH BRUCE WAYNE YOU CAN EXPECT ALMOST ANYTHING TO HAPPEN! AND IT DOES, AS BATMAN AND ROBIN AGAIN MATCH WITS WITH THE TIGRESS QUEEN AND LEARN THAT "YOUR FACE IS YOUR FORTUNE!"

BY- 







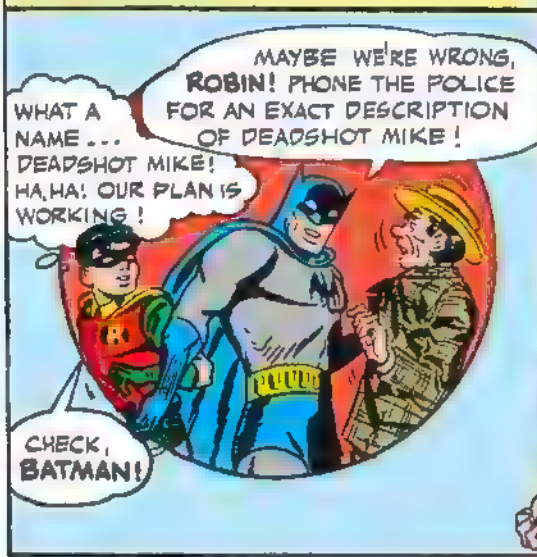


UNNOTICED, THE ACE CRIME-FIGHTER SLIPS THE MESSAGE TO HIS YOUNG AIDE !

WHAT A NAME ... DEADSHOT MIKE! HA, HA! OUR PLAN IS WORKING!

MAYBE WE'RE WRONG, ROBIN! PHONE THE POLICE FOR AN EXACT DESCRIPTION OF DEADSHOT MIKE!

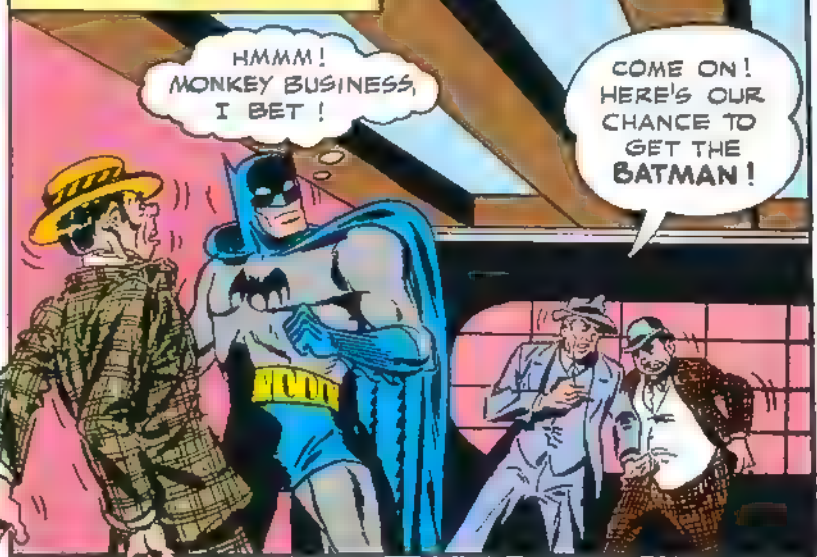
CHECK, BATMAN!



BUT SMOOTH SAILING IS NOT AHEAD...

HMMM! MONKEY BUSINESS, I BET!

COME ON! HERE'S OUR CHANCE TO GET THE BATMAN!



GOT YOU, BATMAN! OH...

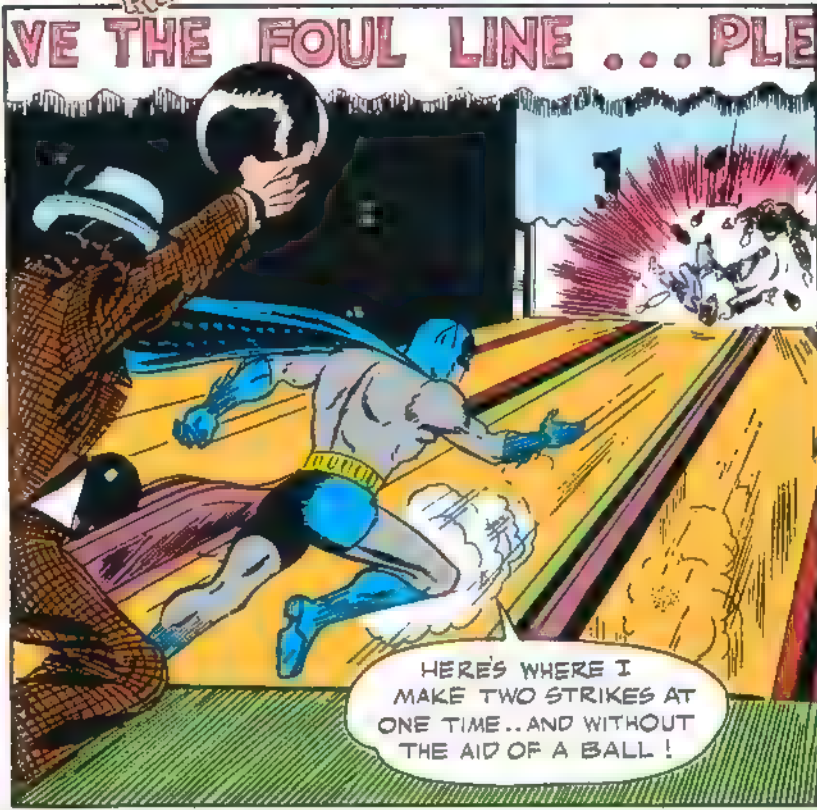
UGGH!

AH! SUCH ACCURACY! WELL IF YOU REALLY WANT TO BOWL...



AVE THE FOUL LINE ... PLE

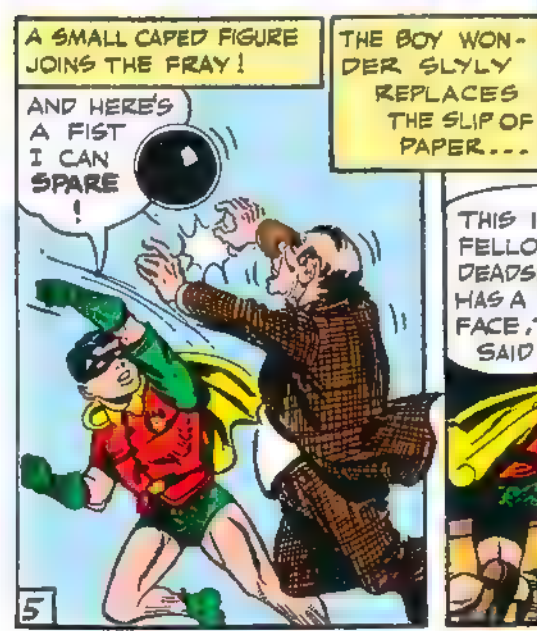
HERE'S WHERE I MAKE TWO STRIKES AT ONE TIME..AND WITHOUT THE AID OF A BALL!



A SMALL CAPED FIGURE JOINS THE FRAY!

AND HERE'S A FIST I CAN SPARE!

5



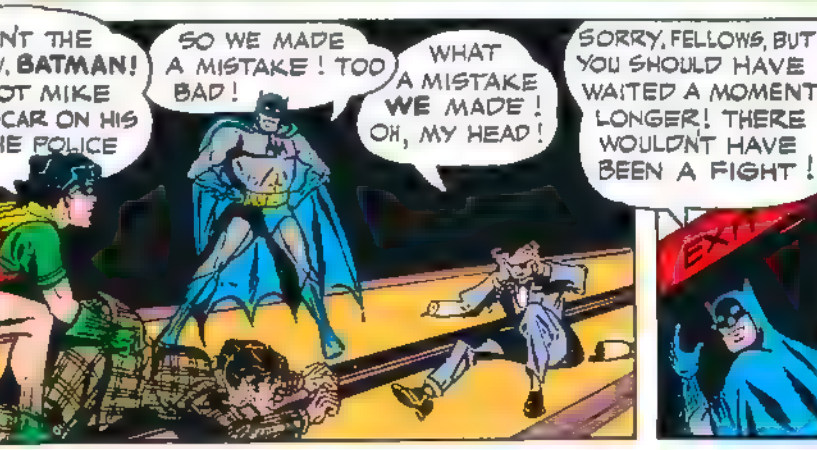
THE BOY WONDER SLYLY REPLACES THE SLIP OF PAPER...

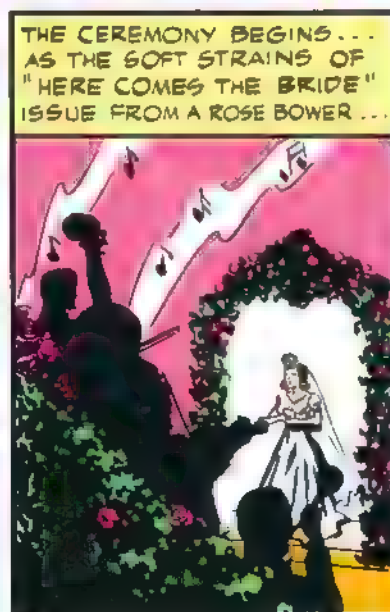
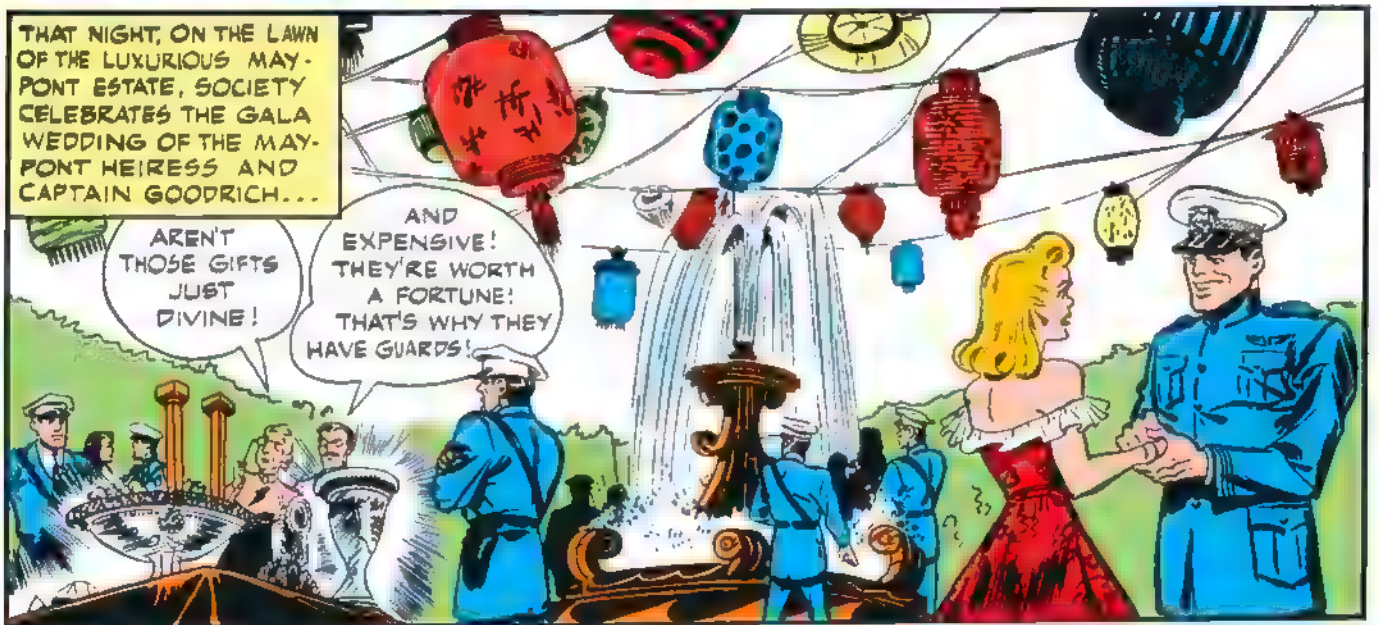
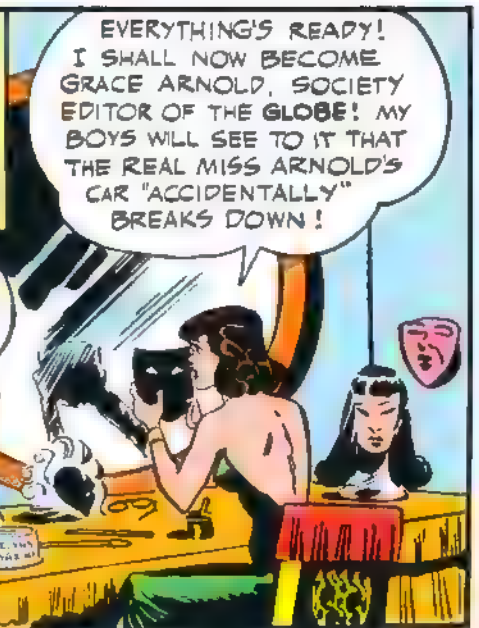
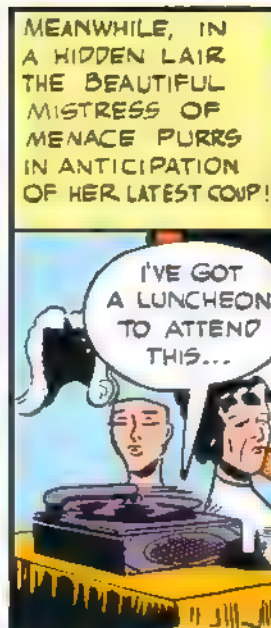
THIS ISN'T THE FELLOW, BATMAN! DEADSHOT MIKE HAS A SCAR ON HIS FACE, THE POLICE SAID!

SO WE MADE A MISTAKE! TOO BAD!

WHAT A MISTAKE WE MADE! OH, MY HEAD!

SORRY, FELLOWS, BUT YOU SHOULD HAVE WAITED A MOMENT LONGER! THERE WOULDN'T HAVE BEEN A FIGHT!





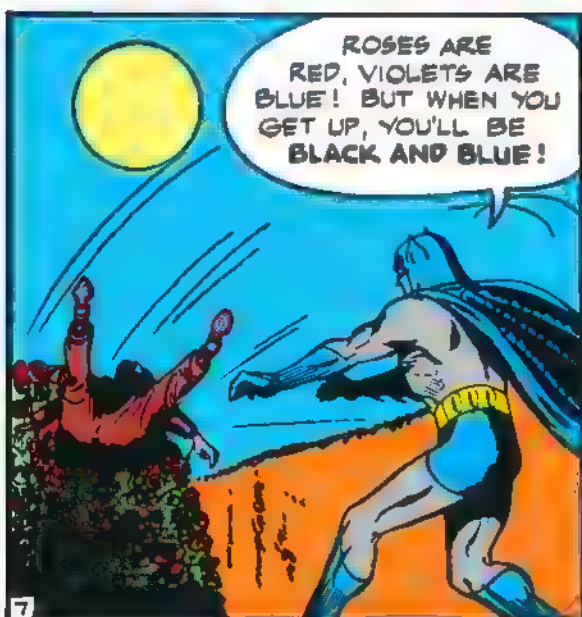
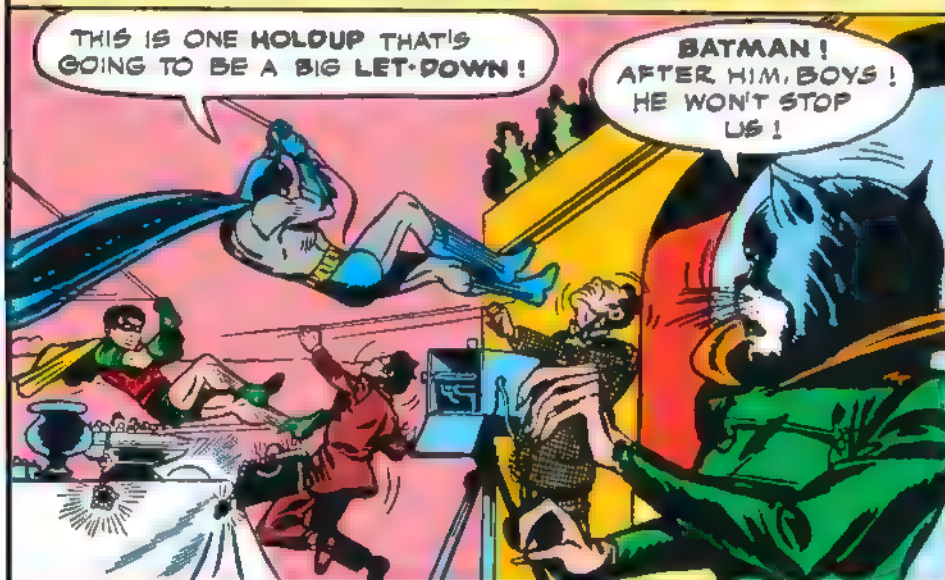
MEANWHILE, THE "SOCIETY EDITOR'S" MEN HAVE SET UP THEIR "PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT"...



AND MOMENTS LATER, A SLIM, CATLIKE FIGURE RE-APPEARS TO GIVE THE SIGNAL FOR ACTION!



BUT THE CUNNINGLY PLANNED COUP IS ABRUPTLY FOILED!



FOOTSTEPS DRUM IN SWIFT PURSUIT, AND SOON...

NOW, NOW, CATWOMAN. IS THAT NICE, RUNNING AWAY LIKE THIS? YOU HAVEN'T EVEN SAID HELLO TO ME!

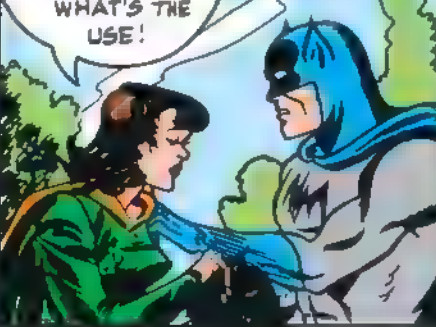
YOU..YOU.. ALWAYS SPOILING MY PLANS! OH, I HATE YOU!



THE PROUD CRIME QUEEN'S HEAD BOWS IN DEFEAT!

ALL RIGHT, YOU WIN, BATMAN! BUT I WISH IT HAD BEEN DIFFERENT! I WISH... OH, WHAT'S THE USE!

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?



I'M IN LOVE, BATMAN.. IN LOVE WITH A FINE, DECENT MAN! YOU'VE PROBABLY HEARD OF HIM .. BRUCE WAYNE!

HUH! IN LOVE WITH ME?



OH! IF YOU'D ONLY LET ME GO, BATMAN.. IF I KNEW I HAD A CHANCE WITH HIM, I'D GIVE UP MY LIFE OF CRIME!

WE..ELL! HMM....I WONDER...? MAYBE SHE'S REALLY SINCERE! WHAT A SPOT FOR ME TO BE IN!



A MOMENT OF LIGHTNING THOUGHT ... AND THEN THE BATMAN ACTS... TO GIVE THE CATWOMAN HER FREEDOM!

OOPS! I TRIPPED! GUESS I CAN'T HELP IT IF YOU ESCAPE NOW, CATWOMAN! (I'LL GIVE HER THE CHANCE SHE WANTS!)

THANKS, BATMAN! YOU'RE..YOU'RE WONDERFUL!



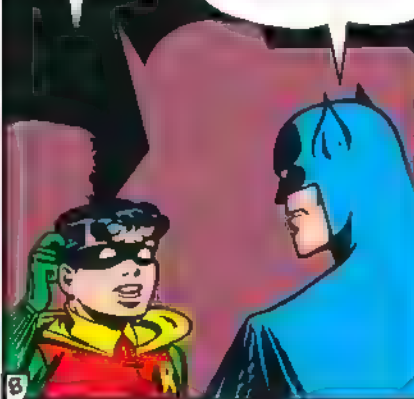
THE CATWOMAN'S MEN GOT AWAY! .. AND ... SAY, SHE'S GETTING AWAY, TOO!

ER..YES.. LOOKS AS THOUGH SHE IS. DOESN'T IT?



WHAT'S GOT INTO YOU, BATMAN?

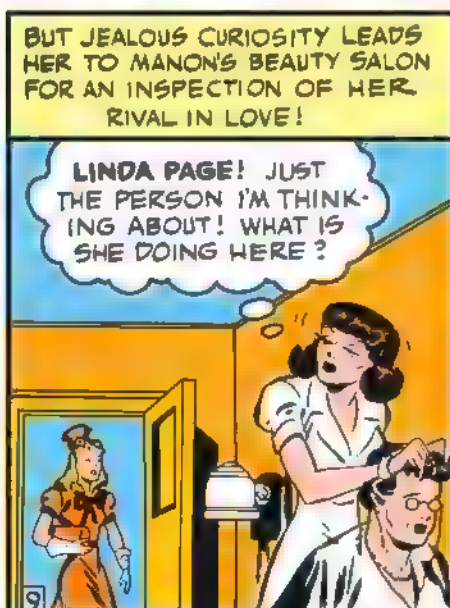
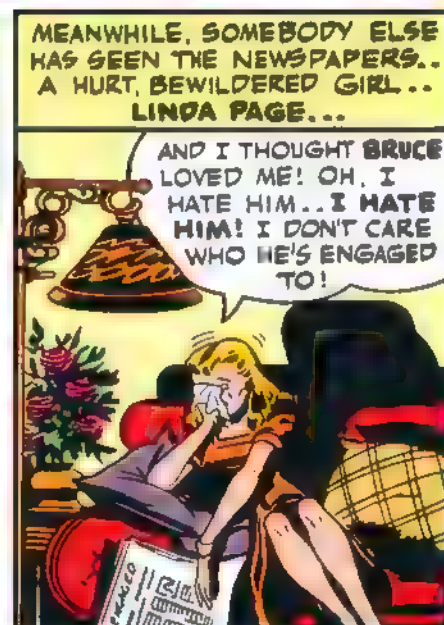
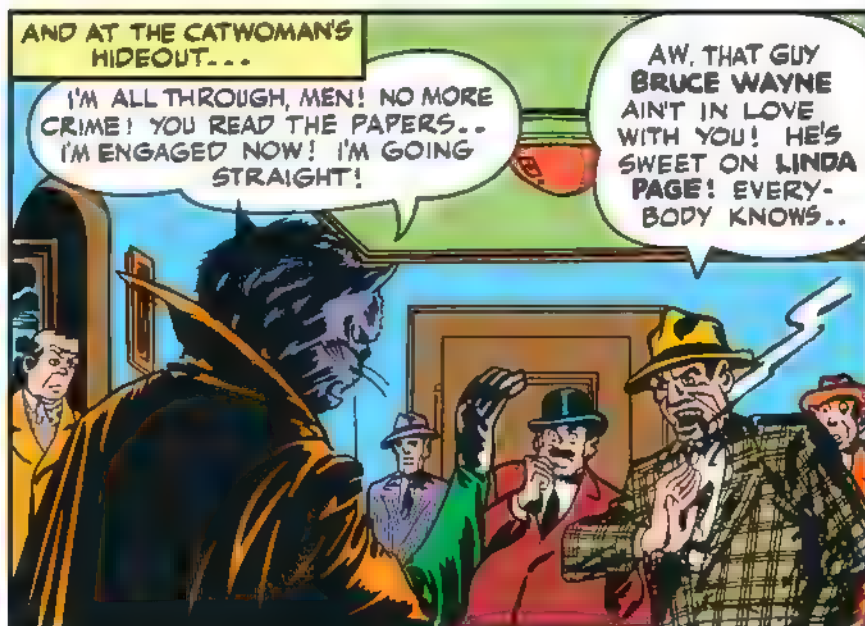
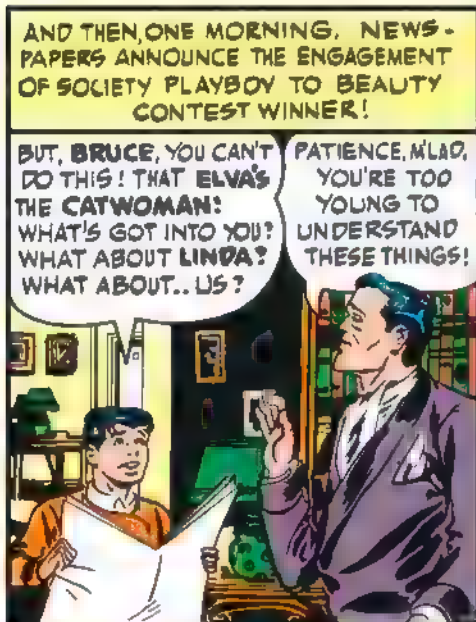
NOTHING, ROBIN. NOTHING! ONLY I THINK PERHAPS WE MAY BE GETTING RID OF THE CATWOMAN FOR GOOD SOON!



WHAT IS THE BATMAN UP TO? THE CATWOMAN IS IN LOVE WITH WAYNE ... BUT WHAT CAN THE BATMAN AS BRUCE DO ABOUT IT?

APPARENTLY A LOT! FOR, IN THE NEXT FEW DAYS, BRUCE WAYNE COURTS BEAUTIFUL "ELVA BARR" IN A WHIRL - WIND ROMANCE!





AND SO, THAT AFTERNOON, THE CATWOMAN MEETS BRUCE WAYNE ...IN THE GUISE OF LINDA PAGE!

I WANTED TO FIND OUT PERSONALLY IF YOU ARE REALLY ENGAGED TO THAT GIRL!

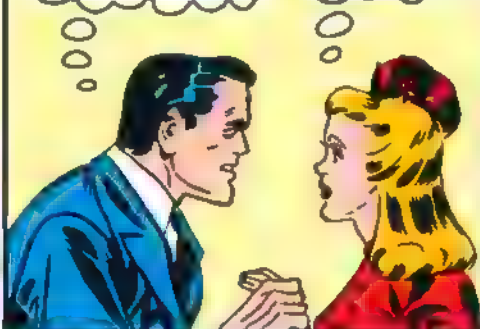
NOW, LISTEN, LINDA, PLEASE UNDERSTAND! I-- I'M DOING A FAVOR FOR THE BATMAN! HE ASKED ME TO DO THIS!



YOU MUST TRUST ME, LINDA! MY ENGAGEMENT WON'T BE FOR LONG!

JUST LONG ENOUGH, TO GET THE CATWOMAN GOING STRAIGHT!

SO HE REALLY DOESN'T LOVE ME! HE LOVES LINDA! AND HE'S JUST DOING THIS BECAUSE THE BATMAN ASKED HIM!



NEVER MIND, MR. WAYNE! I'M LEAVING! FOOL THAT I WAS!

THIS IS THE BATMAN'S FAULT! HE WANTED TO REFORM ME! WELL, I'LL SHOW HIM!

LINDA, PLEASE!



A DEJECTED BRUCE WAYNE, MEANWHILE, RETURNS HOME ... AND RECEIVES AN INCREDIBLE MESSAGE!

LINDA CALLED ABOUT FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO TO CONGRATULATE YOU, BRUCE! SHE SAID TO TELL YOU SHE WAS AT THE BEAUTY SALON AND SAW YOUR FIANCEE!

LINDA! WHY, I WAS WITH HER FIFTEEN MINUTES AGO! IT COULDN'T BE... IT'S IMPOSSIBLE!



UNLESS... UNLESS... GREAT SCOTT! I SEE IT! I SEE IT NOW! MY PLAN'S SPOILED! THAT WAS THE CATWOMAN WITH ME!

HUH? LOOK, I'M TOO YOUNG TO UNDERSTAND THESE THINGS!



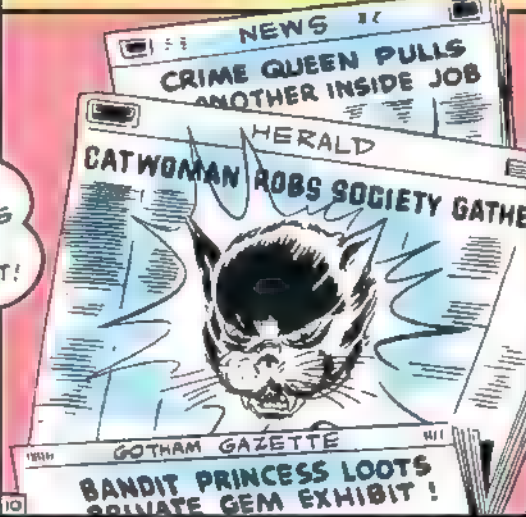
BRUCE SWIFTLY BRINGS HIS YOUNG COMPANION UP-TO-DATE...

.. AND SO YOU SEE, EVERYTHING FITS! LINDA WAS AT THE BEAUTY PARLOR ...AND THE CATWOMAN TOOK HER PLACE! THAT'S WHY SHE WORKED THERE.. THAT WAS HER SCHEME! TO MAKE IMPRESSIONS OF WOMEN'S FACES!

I'M GLAD TO HEAR YOU'RE NOT IN LOVE WITH HER! SHE KNOWS THAT NOW, SO WATCH OUT!



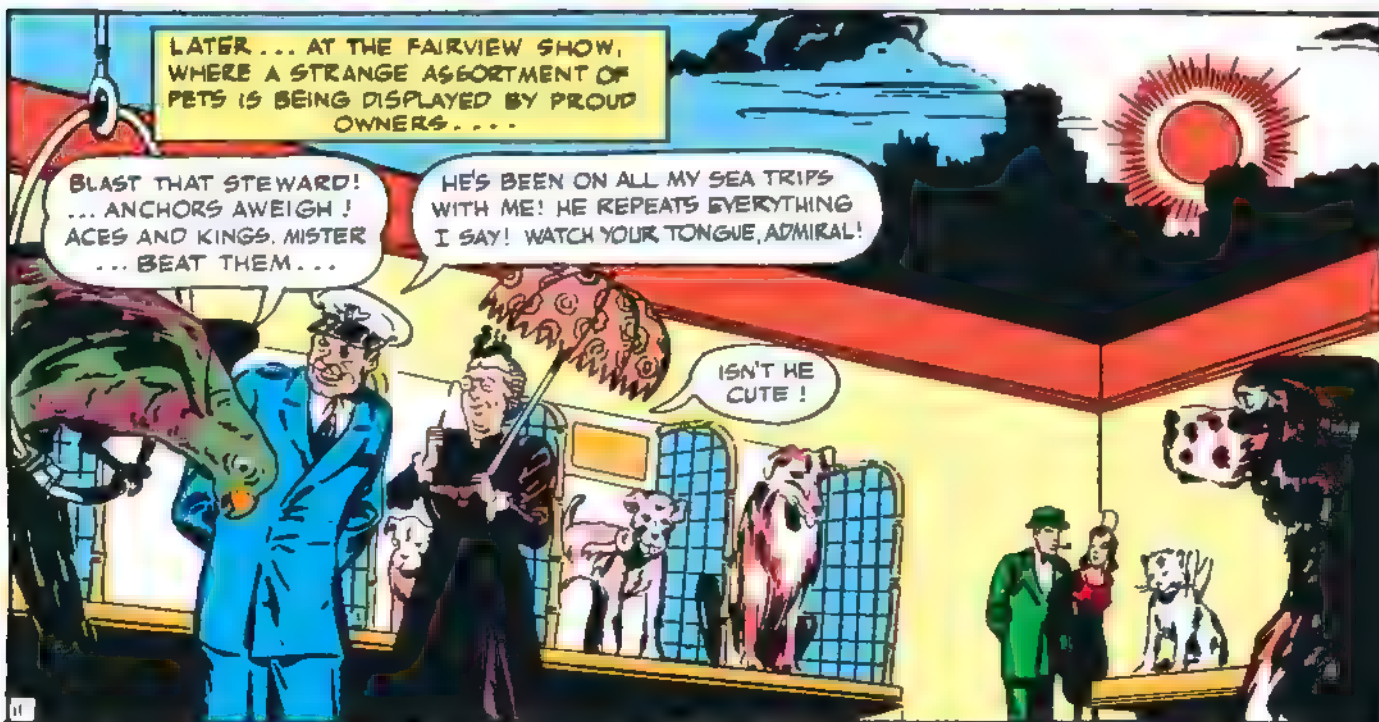
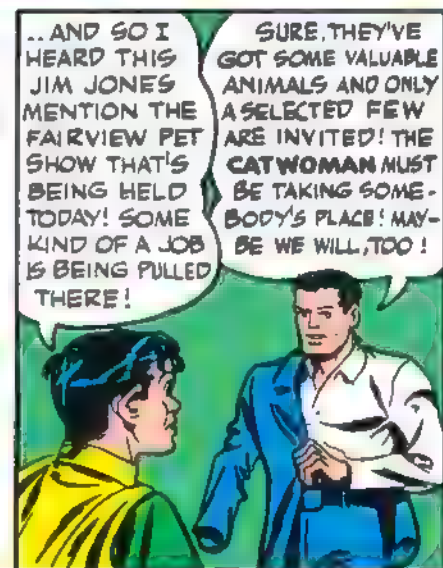
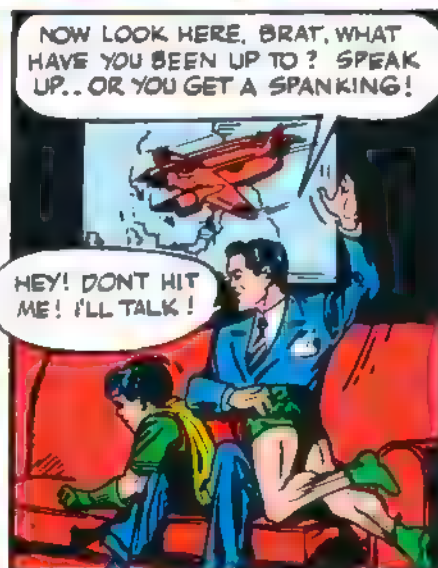
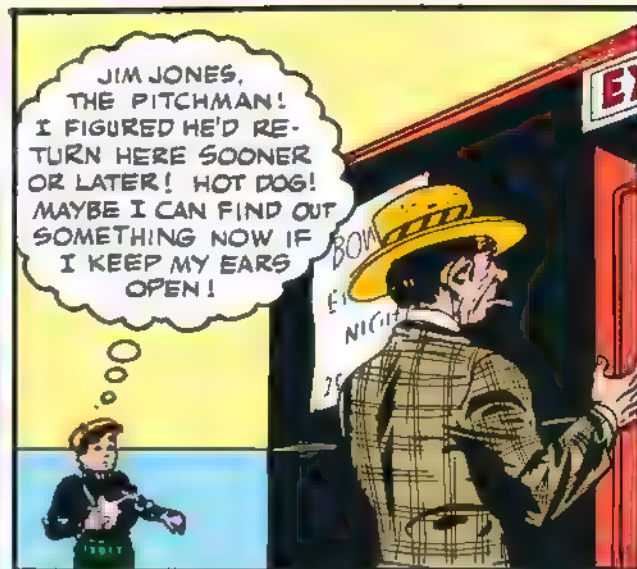
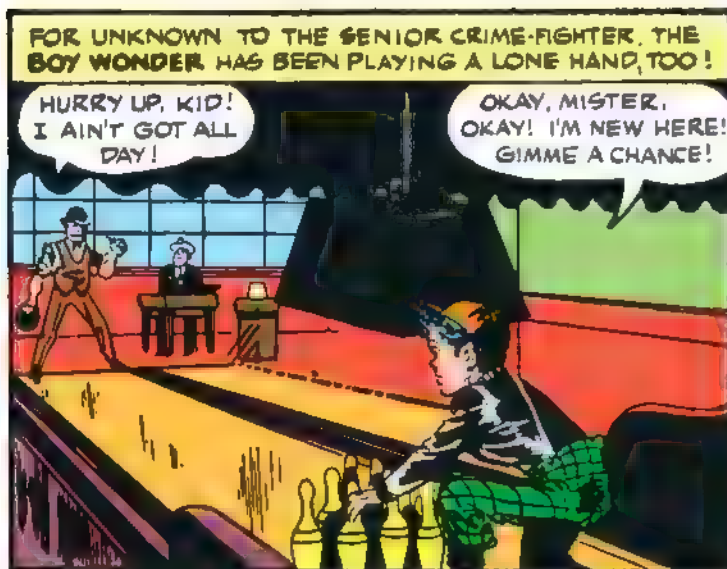
PROPHETIC WORDS! HEADLINES SOON SCREAM THE SENSATIONAL NEWS OF THE CATWOMAN'S DARING RAIDS



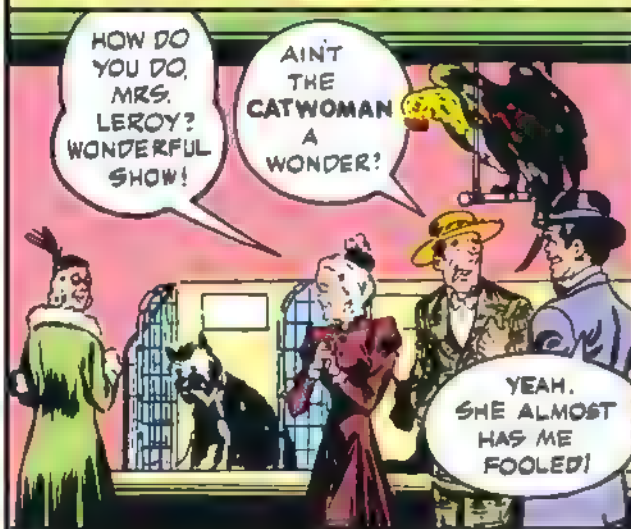
WE'VE GOT TO DO SOMETHING! WE'VE GOT TO STOP HER! BUT WHERE CAN WE GET A LEAD TO HER? SHE'S DISAPPEARED AS ELVA BARR!

HMM! MAYBE I'LL HAVE SOME NEWS SOON! TOO YOUNG, AM I? I'LL SHOW HIM!





NEAR AN ENGLISH SCOTTIE, A FEMALE SPIT-FIRE LURKS SAFELY BEHIND THE KINDLY GUISE OF A WELL-KNOWN ANIMAL LOVER

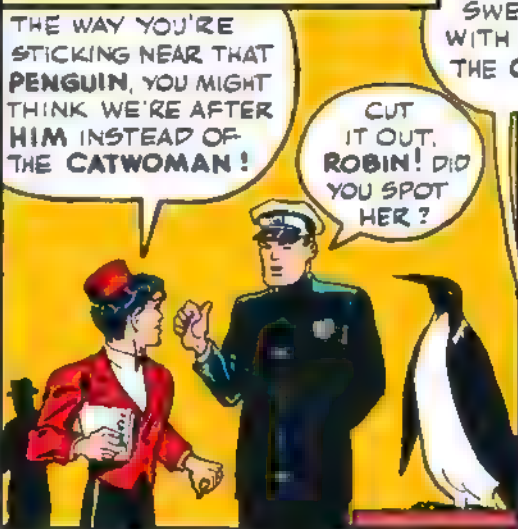


HOW DO YOU DO, MRS. LEROY? WONDERFUL SHOW!

AIN'T THE CATWOMAN A WONDER?

YEAH, SHE ALMOST HAS ME FOOLED!

BUT ELSEWHERE, DISGUISE HAS TRANSFORMED TWO OTHER FAMILIAR FIGURES



THE WAY YOU'RE STICKING NEAR THAT PENGUIN, YOU MIGHT THINK WE'RE AFTER HIM INSTEAD OF THE CATWOMAN!

CUT IT OUT, ROBIN! DID YOU SPOT HER?

YES, THAT JIM JONES GUY IS OVER NEAR THE SCOTTIES! THE SWEET OLD LADY WITH HIM MUST BE THE CATWOMAN!

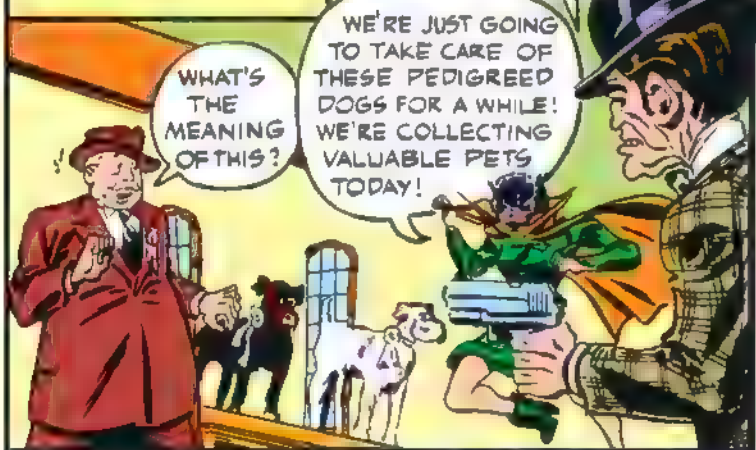
GOOD! WE'D BETTER GET INTO OUR ACTION SUITS! SOMETHING'S DUE TO BREAK!

ALMOST AS THOUGH SHE HAD READ HIS MIND, THE FELINE CRIME QUEEN BARES HER CLAWS IN A MENACING MOVE!

HA, HA! SURE! AND IT'LL COST YOU PLENTY TO GET 'EM BACK! IT'S A KID-NAP...I MEAN DOG-NAP! HA, HA!

WE'RE JUST GOING TO TAKE CARE OF THESE PEDIGREED DOGS FOR A WHILE! WE'RE COLLECTING VALUABLE PETS TODAY!

WHAT'S THE MEANING OF THIS?



THEN, LIKE TWIN NIGHTMARES, THE POWERHOUSE PAIR BREAKS UP THE HAPPY DREAM!



HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO TAKE A CAT-NAP?

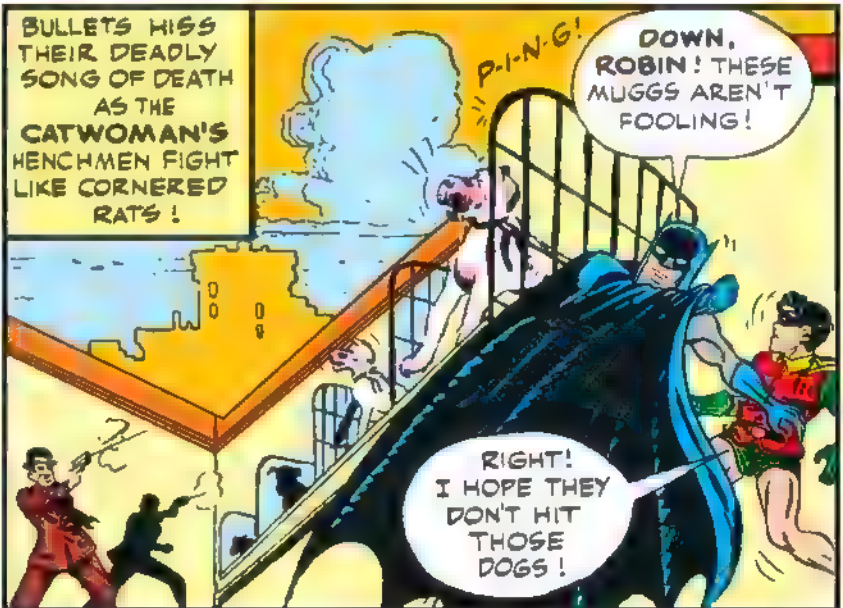
YOU TWO AGAIN! DON'T YOU EVER MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS?

SURE, CATWOMAN! THIS IS OUR BUSINESS!

YOU'LL BE SORRY YET, YOU TWO!

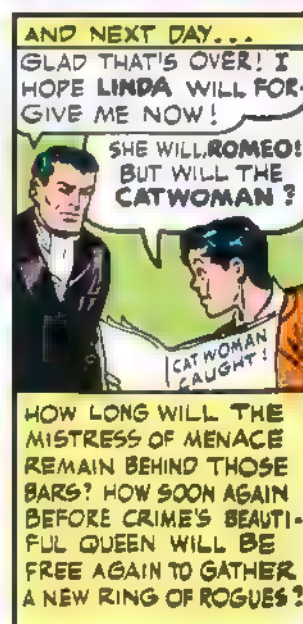
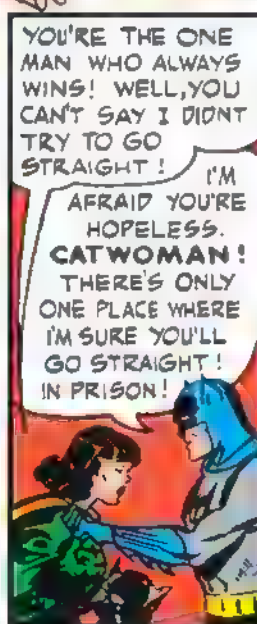
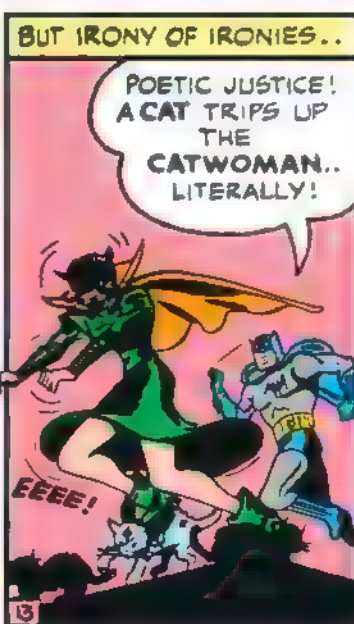
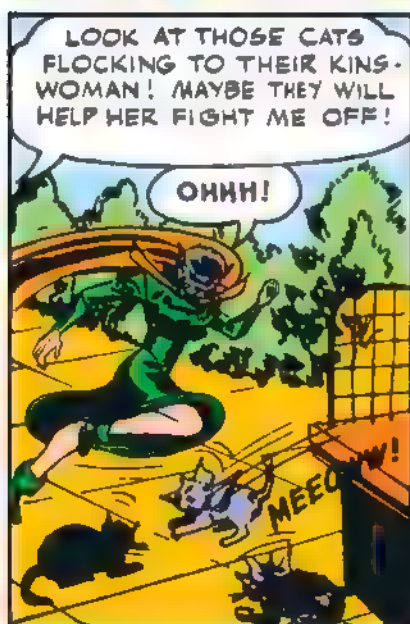
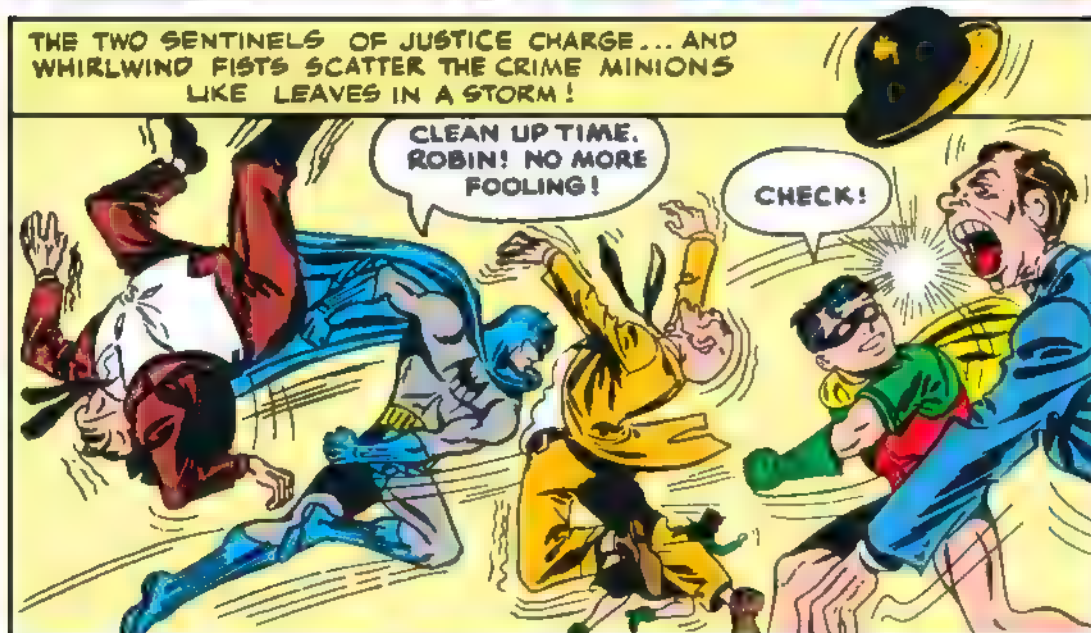
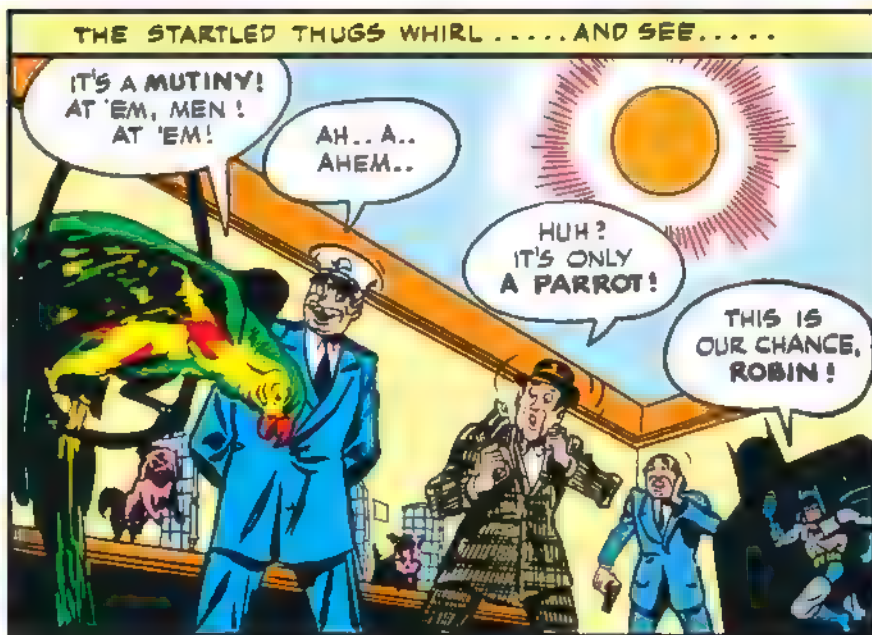


BULLETS HISS THEIR DEADLY SONG OF DEATH AS THE CATWOMAN'S HENCHMEN FIGHT LIKE CORNERED RATS!



RIGHT! I HOPE THEY DON'T HIT THOSE DOGS!

DOWN, ROBIN! THESE MUGGS AREN'T FOOLING!



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN

HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO PUT ON THE FIGHTING TOGS OF ROBIN AND RISK PERIL AT THE SIDE OF THE MIGHTY BATMAN? HERE IS THE AMAZING STORY OF A HOMELESS BOY WHO DREAMED OF JUST THAT--AND WAS THE PROUDEST AND HAPPIEST KID IN AMERICA WHEN HE SAW HIS DREAM COME TRUE! OR RATHER, THOUGHT HE SAW IT COMING TRUE--FOR WHAT FOLLOWED PROVED TO BE ONE OF THE MEANEST FRAUDS EVER PERPETRATED! BUT BATMAN AND ROBIN HURTLE INTO SWIFT ACTION WHEN THEY HEAR ABOUT "THE BOY WHO WANTED TO BE ROBIN!"



WHAT COLD EYES ARE THESE THAT
PEER CRAFTILY AT A SPECTACLE
THAT WOULD TERRIFY ANOTHER MAN?

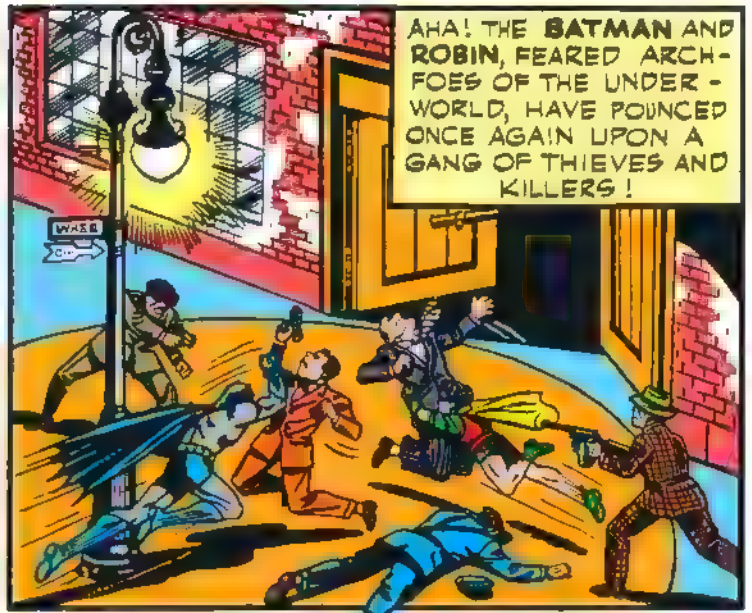




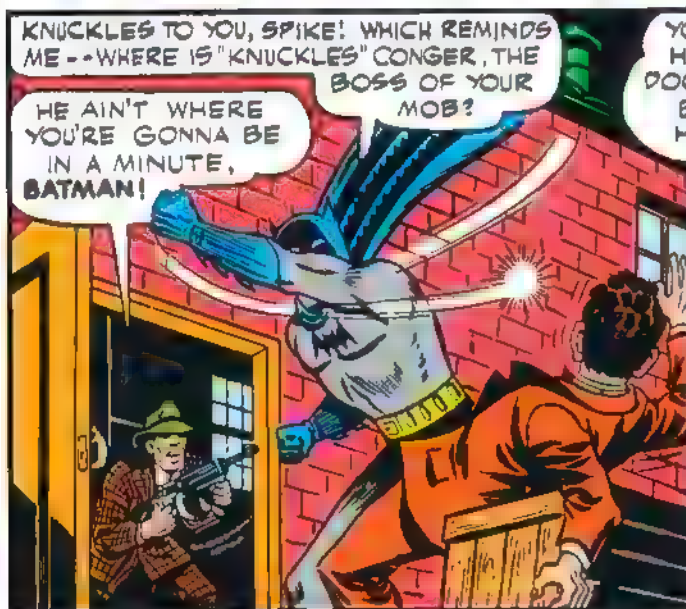
WHO IS THIS DARK-CLAD AUDIENCE OF ONE, LURKING UNSEEN IN THE SHADOWS OF THE WATERFRONT?

WAREHOUSE
NO 58

WE SHALL KNOW PRESENTLY... BUT FIRST LET US SEE WHAT IT IS THAT HOLDS HIS ATTENTION SO CLOSELY...



AHA! THE BATMAN AND ROBIN, FEARED ARCH-FOES OF THE UNDER-WORLD, HAVE POUNCED ONCE AGAIN UPON A GANG OF THIEVES AND KILLERS!



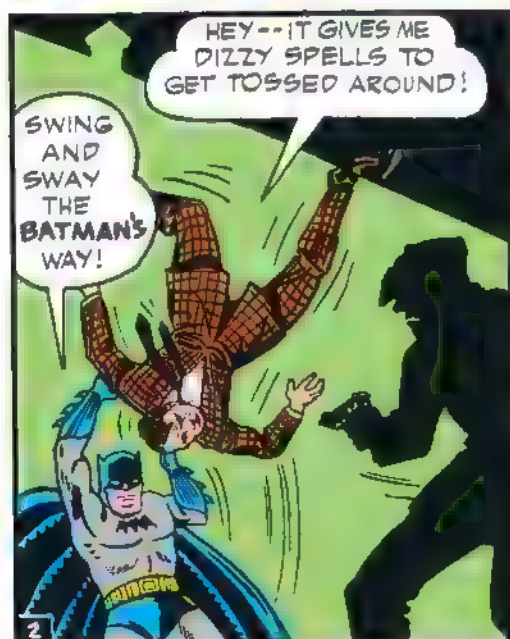
KNUCKLES TO YOU, SPIKE! WHICH REMINDS ME -- WHERE IS "KNUCKLES" CONGER, THE BOSS OF YOUR MOB?

HE AIN'T WHERE YOU'RE GONNA BE IN A MINUTE, BATMAN!



YOU COULDN'T HIT A BARN DOOR WITH THIS BARN DOOR HITTING YOU!

HELP! ME CHOPPER'S BACK-FIRIN'!



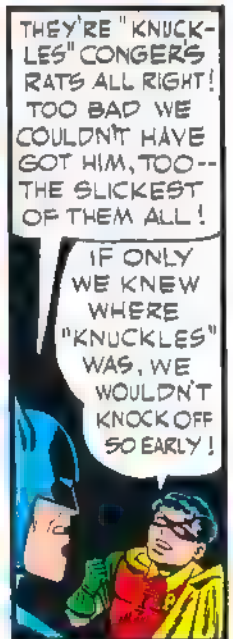
SWING AND SWAY THE BATMAN'S WAY!

HEY--IT GIVES ME DIZZY SPELLS TO GET TOSSED AROUND!



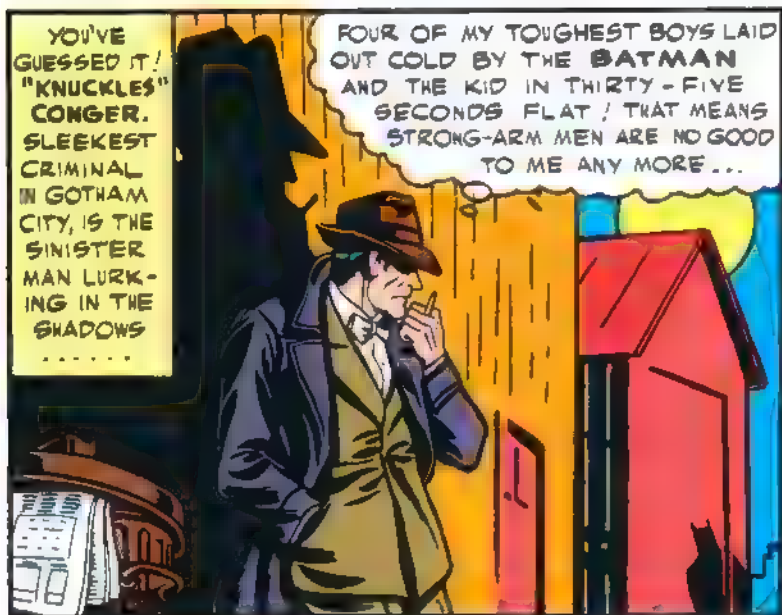
GUESS WE CAN GO HOME, SOON AS THE POLICE SHOW UP!

AW---WE NEVER HAVE THIS MUCH FUN AT HOME!



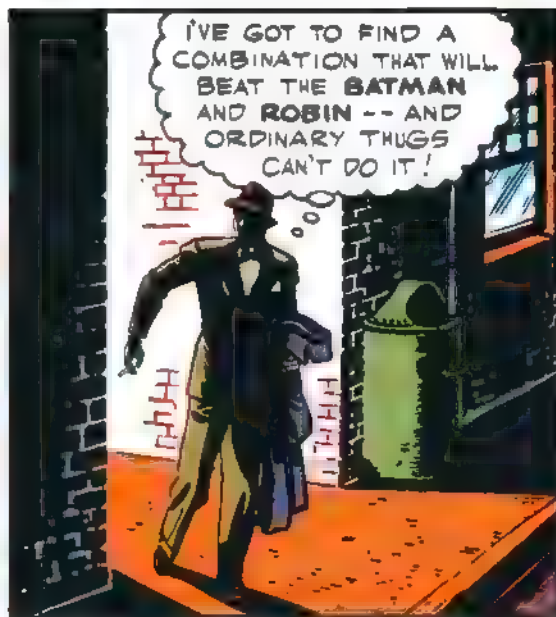
THEY'RE "KNUCKLES" CONGER'S RATS ALL RIGHT! TOO BAD WE COULDN'T HAVE GOT HIM, TOO--THE SLICKEST OF THEM ALL!

IF ONLY WE KNEW WHERE "KNUCKLES" WAS, WE WOULDN'T KNOCK OFF SO EARLY!



YOU'VE GUESSED IT! "KNUCKLES" CONGER, SLEEKEST CRIMINAL IN GOTHAM CITY, IS THE SINISTER MAN LURK-ING IN THE SHADOWS

FOUR OF MY TOUGHEST BOYS LAID OUT COLD BY THE BATMAN AND THE KID IN THIRTY-FIVE SECONDS FLAT! THAT MEANS STRONG-ARM MEN ARE NO GOOD TO ME ANY MORE...



I'VE GOT TO FIND A COMBINATION THAT WILL BEAT THE BATMAN AND ROBIN -- AND ORDINARY THUGS CAN'T DO IT!

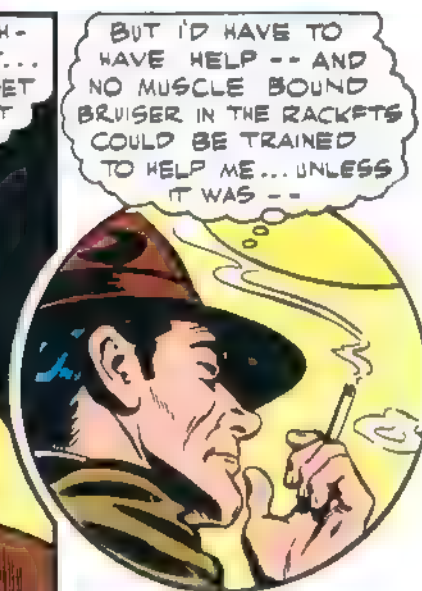


H'YA, KNUCKLES!

IT'S AMAZING HOW ONE MAN AND A BOY CAN TERRORIZE THE WHOLE UNDER-WORLD! OF COURSE, THEY'RE A PERFECTLY MATCHED TEAM, TRAINED TO WORK TOGETHER LIKE MESHED GEARS



I'VE BEEN A TRACK ATH-LETE... AN ACROBAT... A BOXER. I COULD GET IN SHAPE FOR FAST ACTION...



BUT I'D HAVE TO HAVE HELP -- AND NO MUSCLE BOUND BRUISER IN THE RACKETS COULD BE TRAINED TO HELP ME... UNLESS IT WAS --

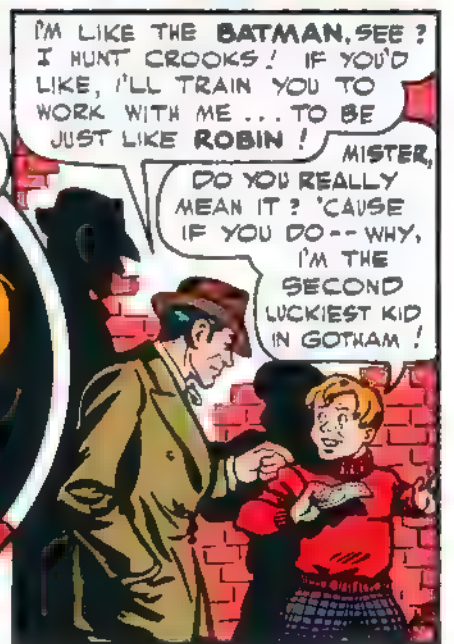
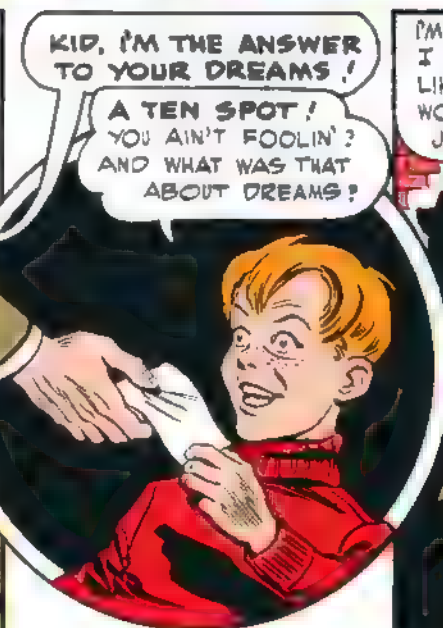
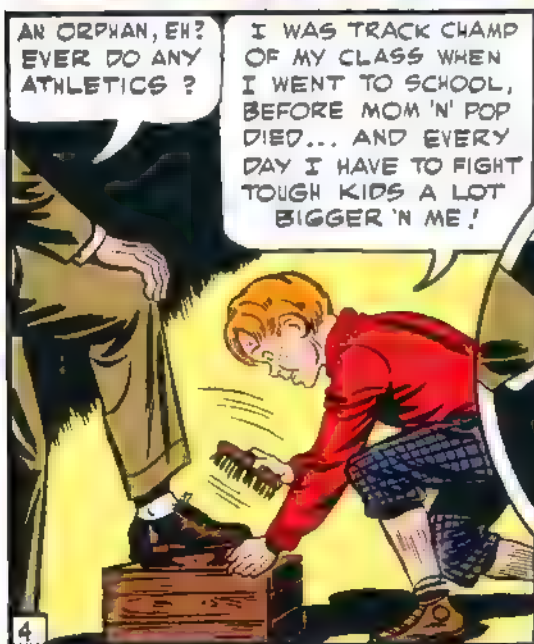
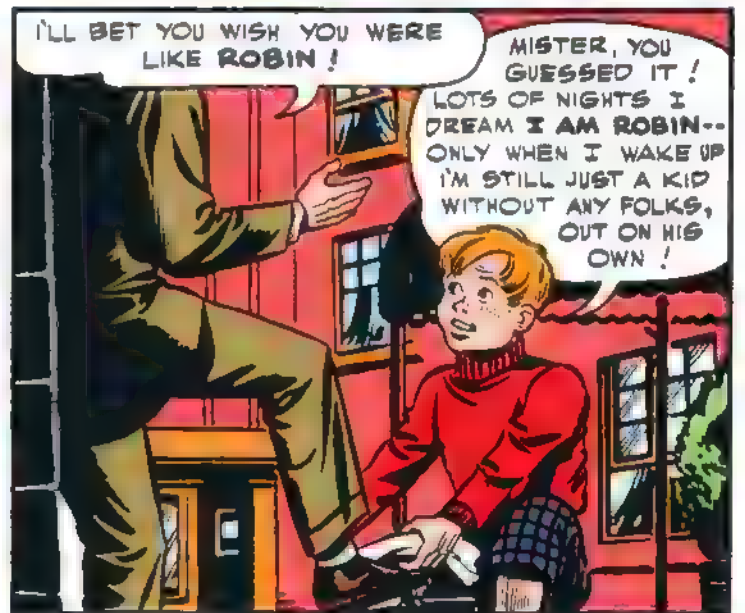
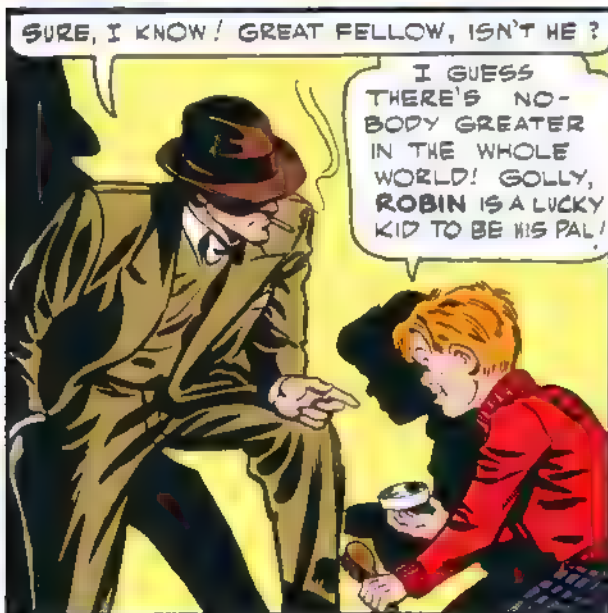
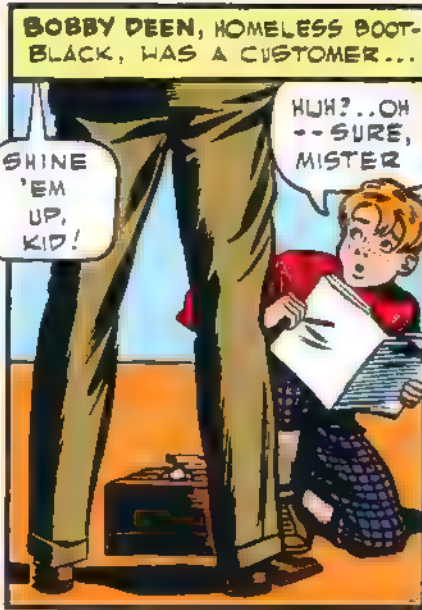
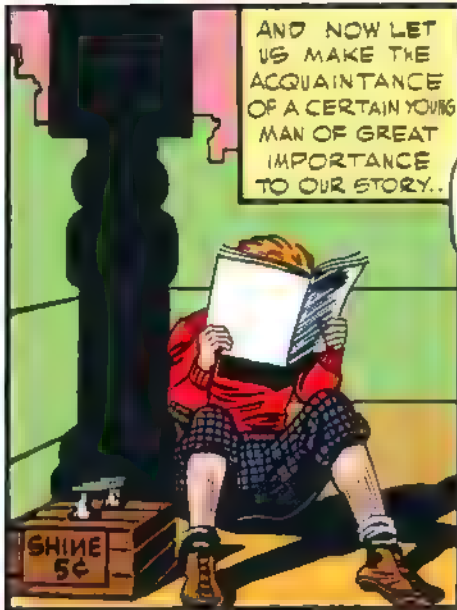


-- A KID! YES... IT'S THE PERFECT SET-UP! WHY DIDN'T I THINK OF IT SOONER? IF THE BATMAN CAN DO IT, I CAN! I'LL HAVE A KID HELP ME!

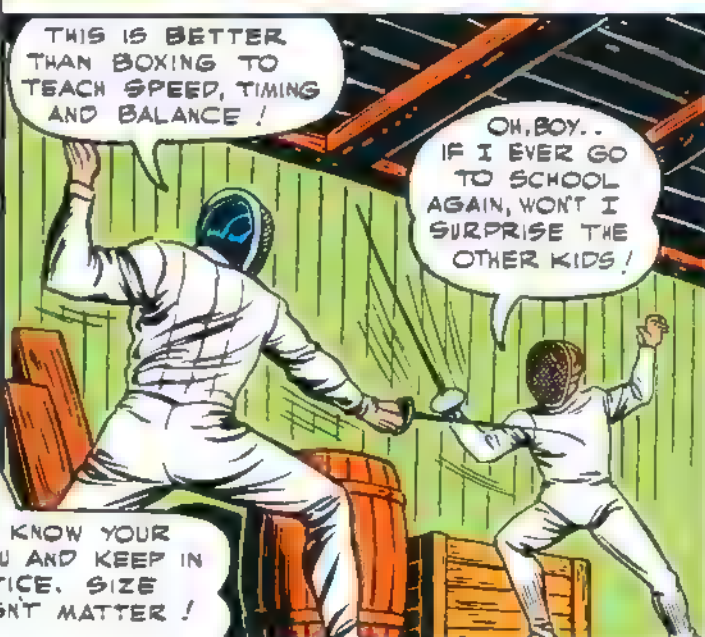
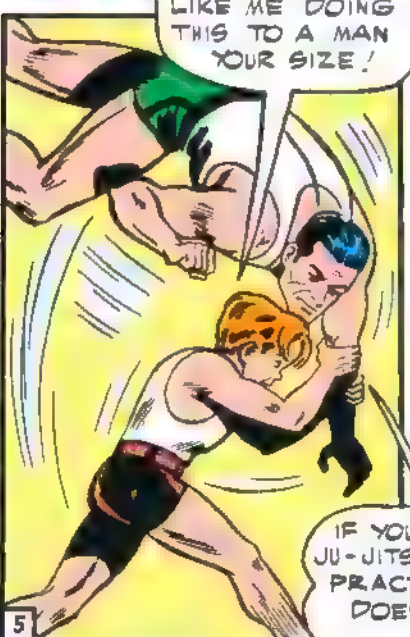
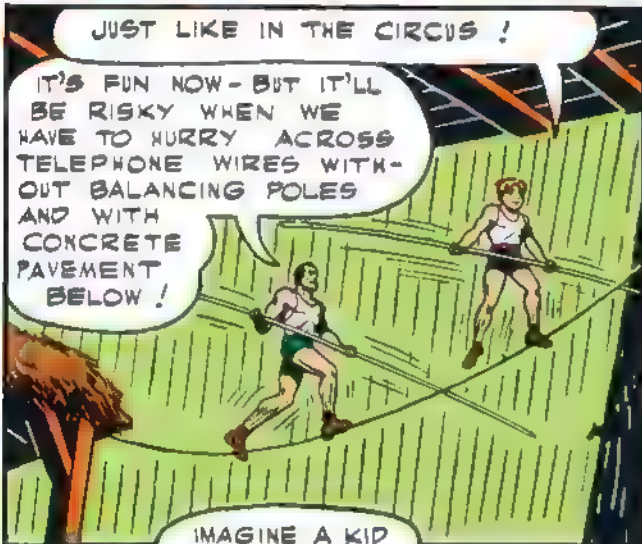
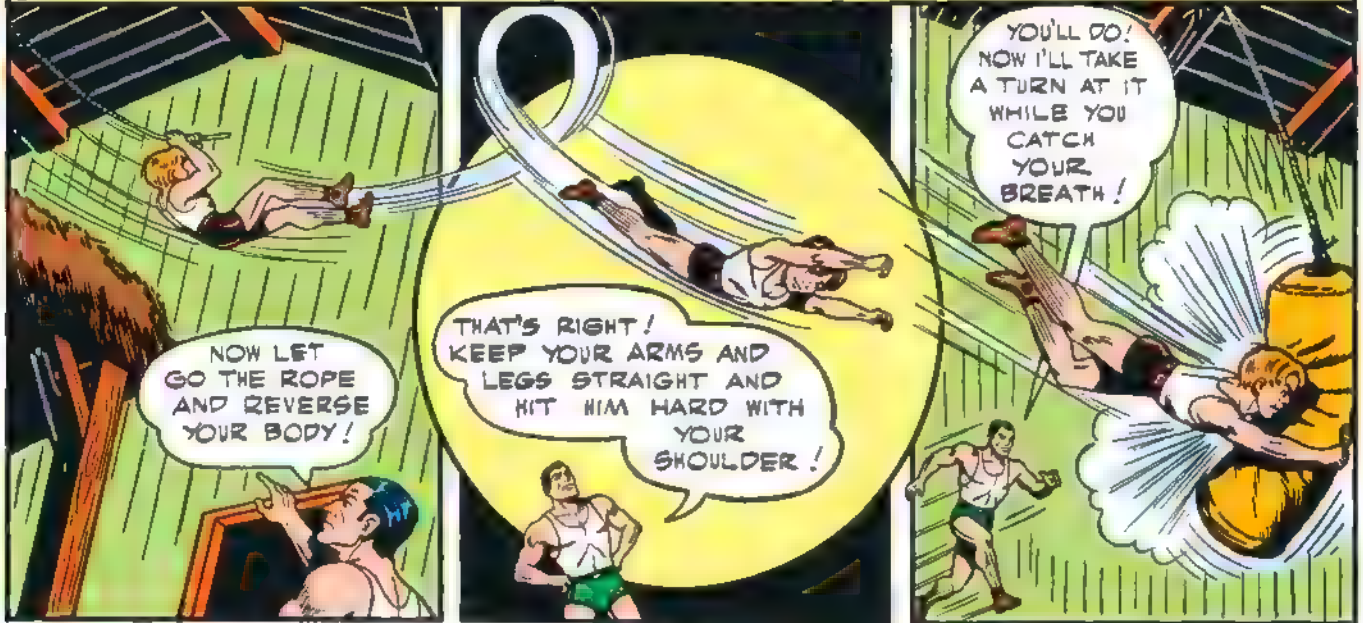


THE BOSS DIDN'T GIVE US A TUMBLE!

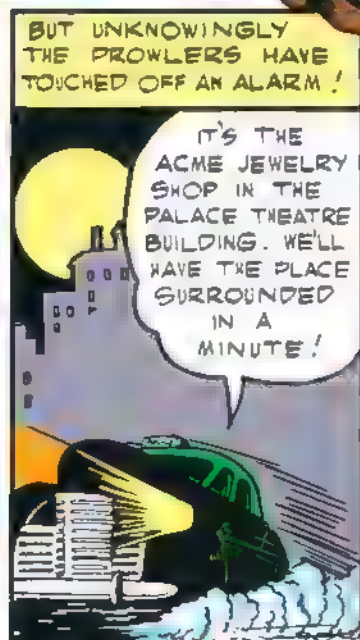
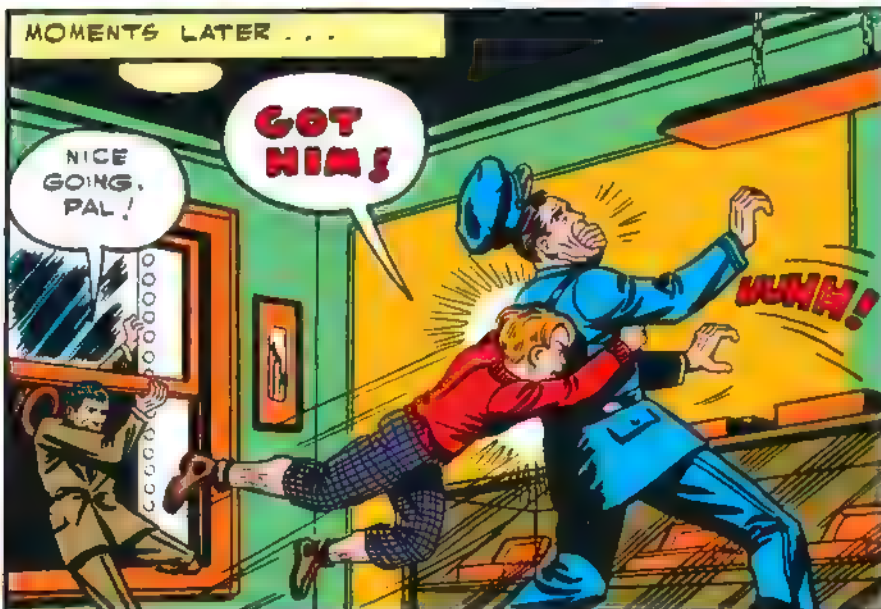
NO MORE LOW GRADE CROOKS FOR ME! I'M HITTING THE HIGH SPOTS FROM NOW ON --- AND USING THE BATMAN'S OWN METHODS AGAINST THE LAW!

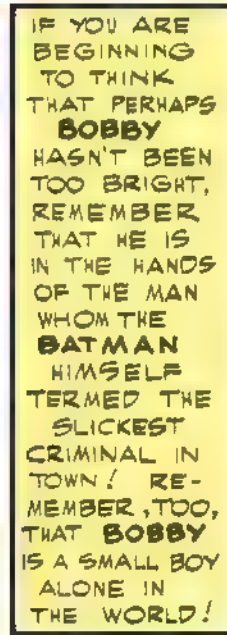
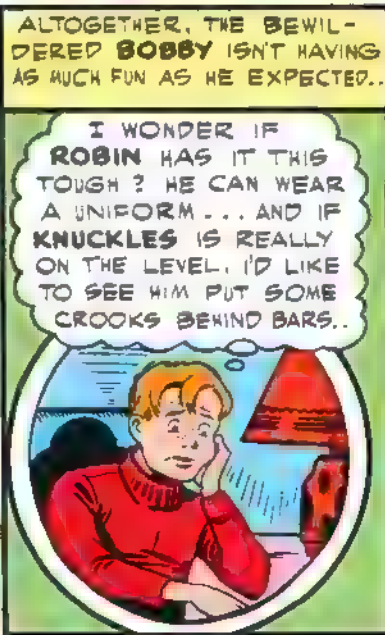
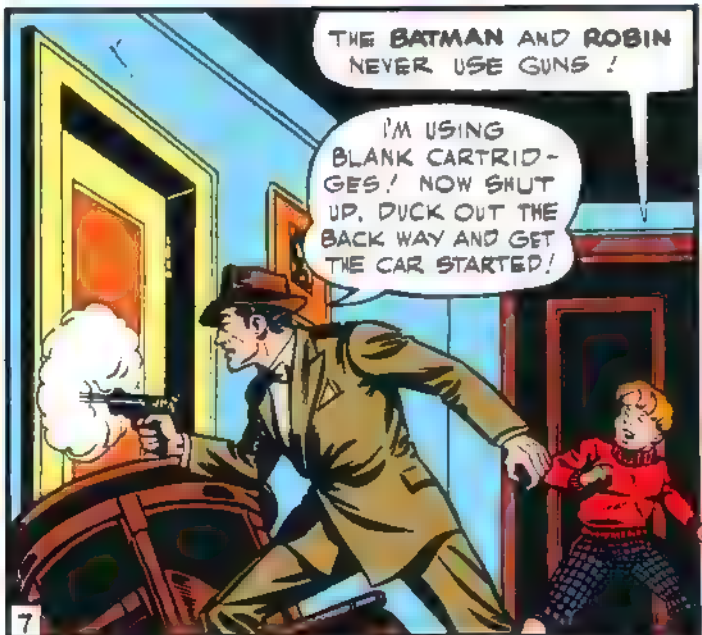
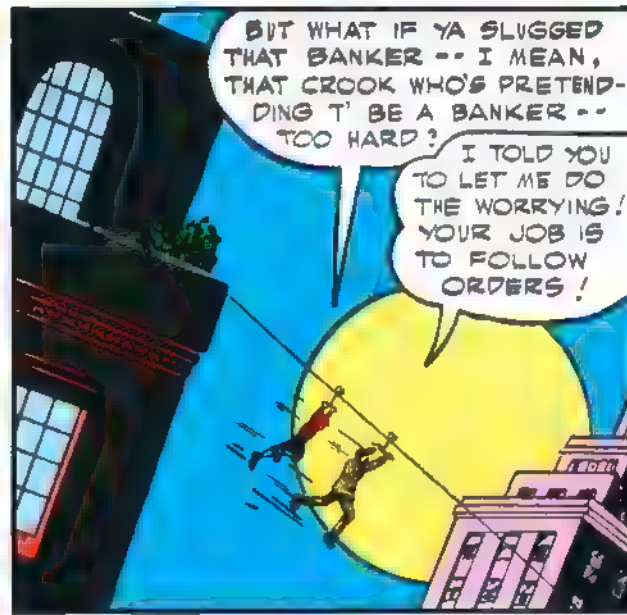
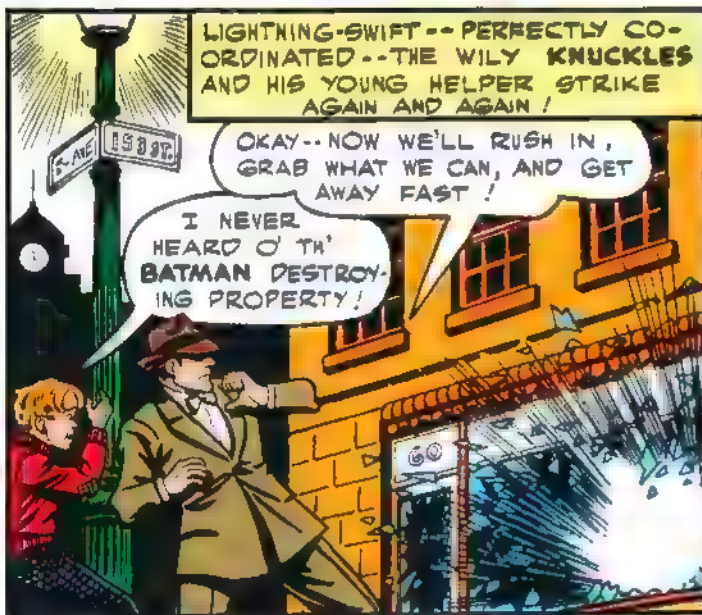
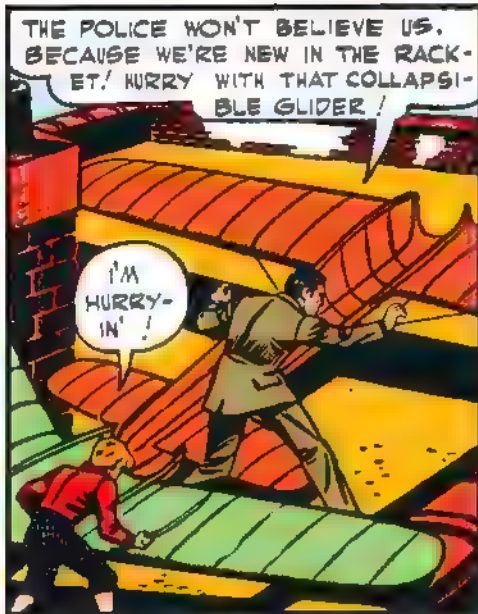


SO IT IS THAT THE LOFT OF A HUGE OLD BARN, IN A SECLUDED SPOT BEYOND THE CITY LIMITS. FOR MANY DAYS IS THE SCENE OF MORE ACTION THAN MOST OLD BARNES HOLD IN A LIFETIME..

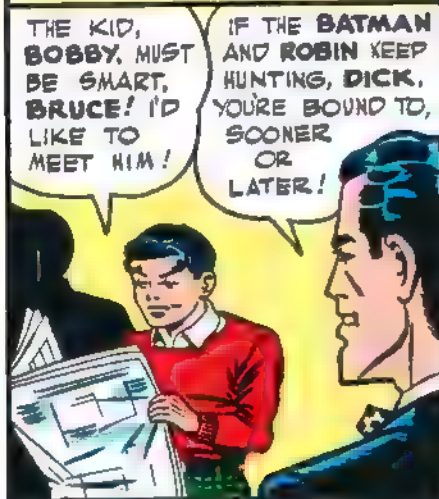


AND SO IS BORN A NEW PRECISION TEAM OF FORMIDABLE FIGHTERS..
A UNIT PATTERNED AFTER THE FAMOUS BATMAN-ROBIN COMBINATION-
BUT DEDICATED TO QUITE DIFFERENT ENDS, AS WE SHALL SEE...





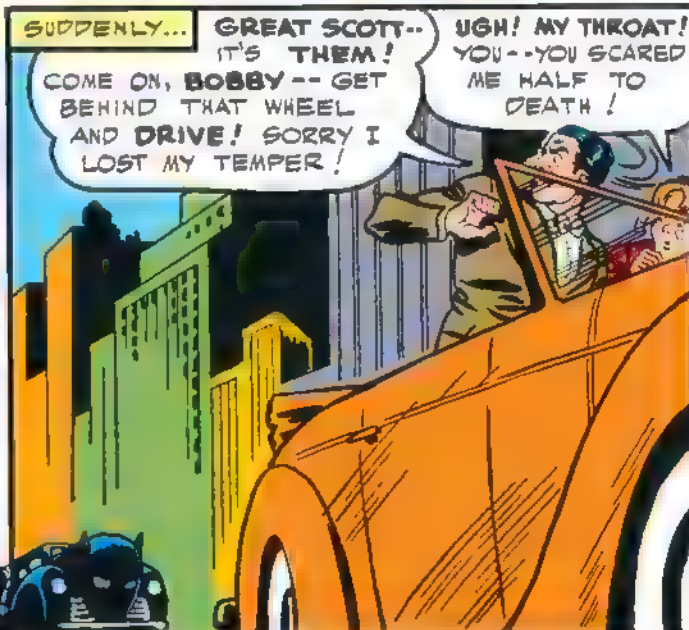
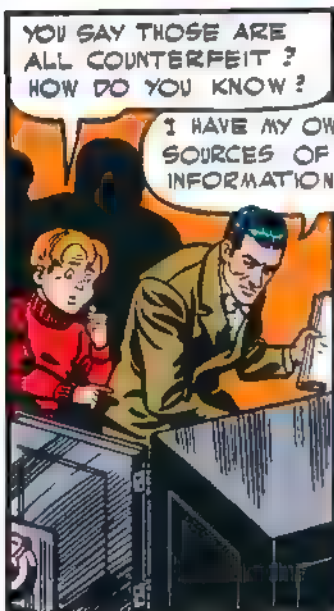
...YET NOT ALTOGETHER HOPE-
LESS - FOR AT BRUCE WAYNE'S
HOME KEEN INTEREST AWAKENS!

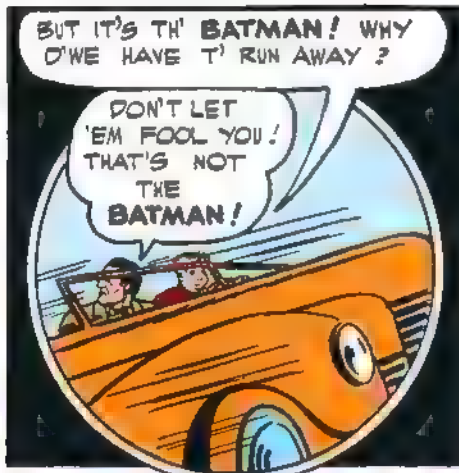


THIS NIGHT, AS ON OTHERS, A
WEIRD CAR LEAVES THE WAYNE
HOME TO PROWL - THE BATMOBILE!

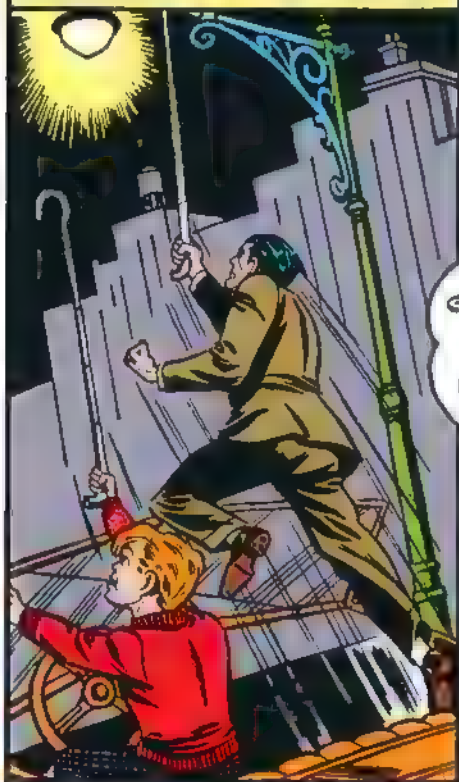


AS LUCK WOULD HAVE IT, TWO
FIGURES ARE ENTERING A
WINDOW THERE AT THIS MOMENT...

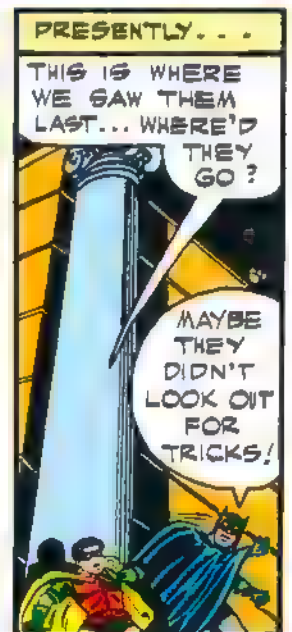
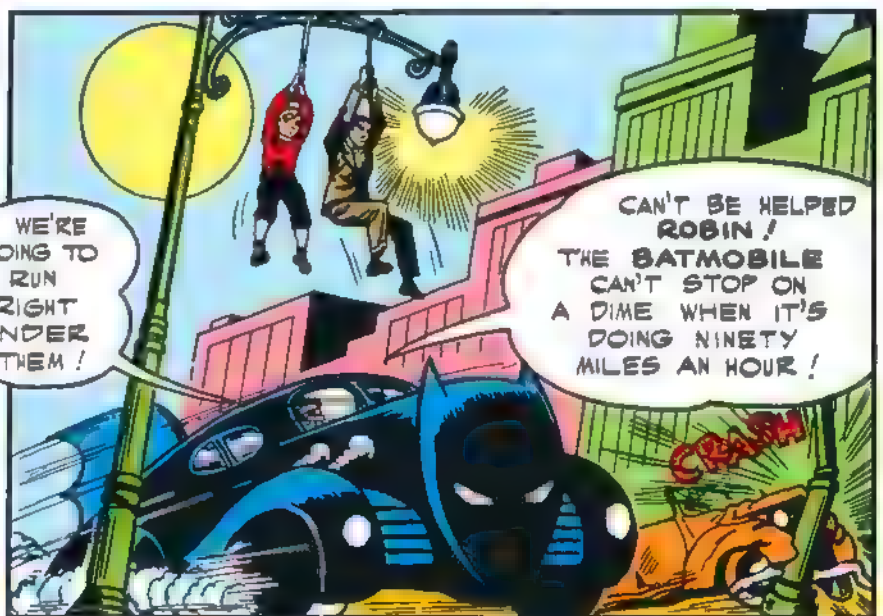
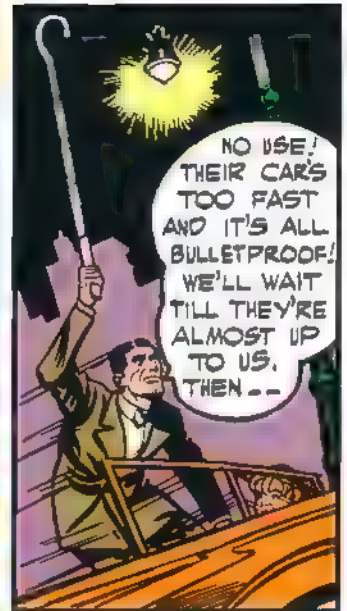
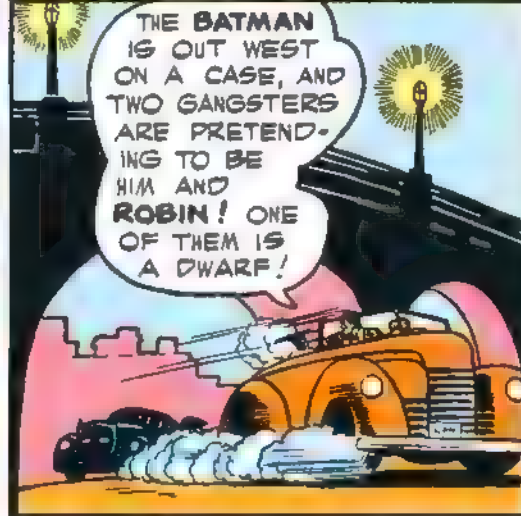


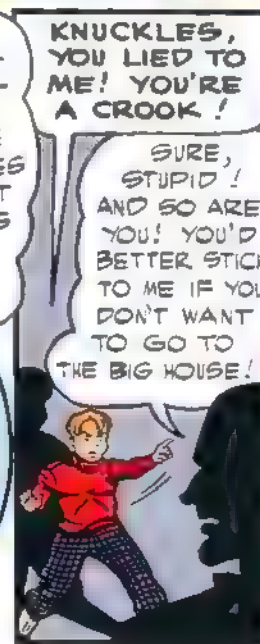
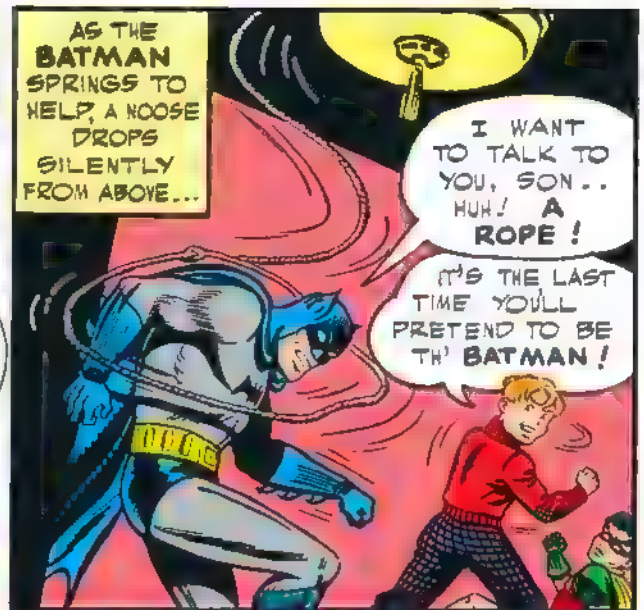
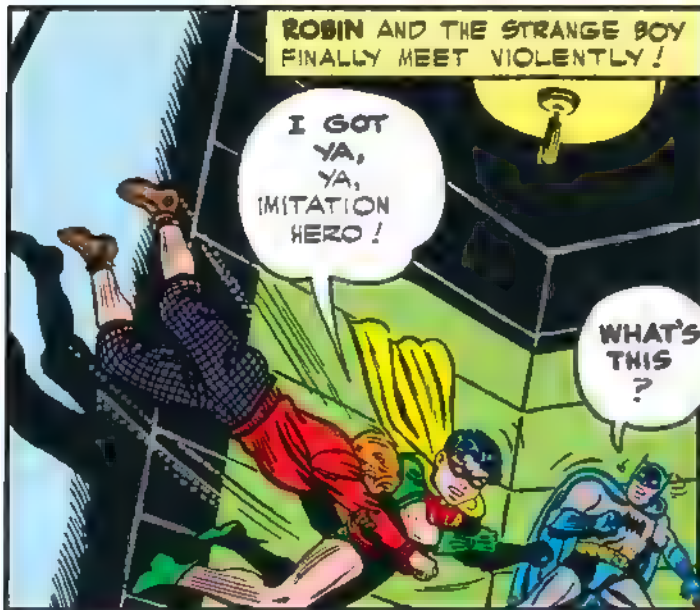


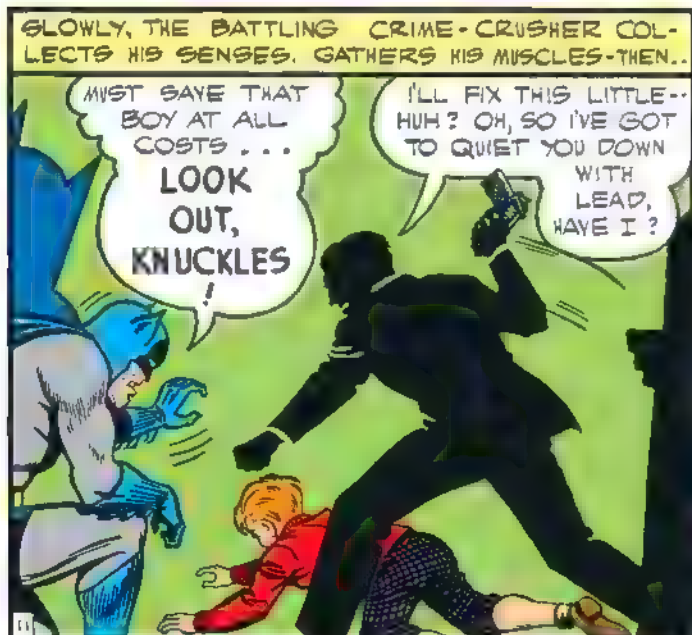
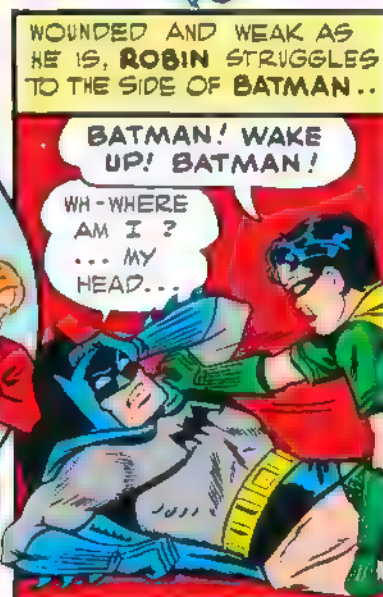
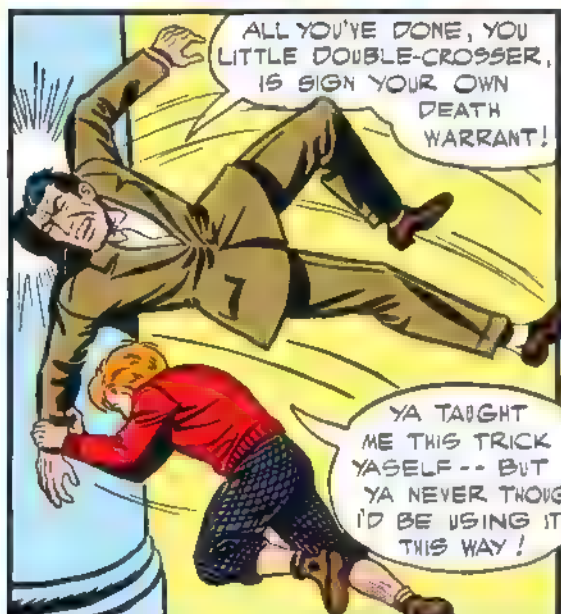
STEEL RODS REACH UP FROM THE FUGITIVE CAR -- HOOK THE CROSS BARS OF STREET LAMPS-AND..

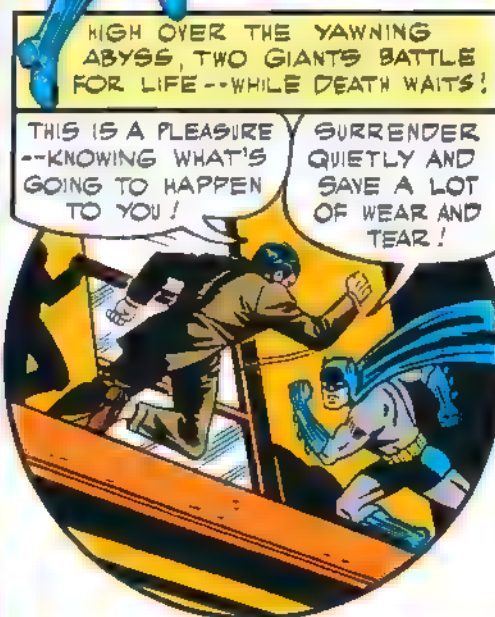
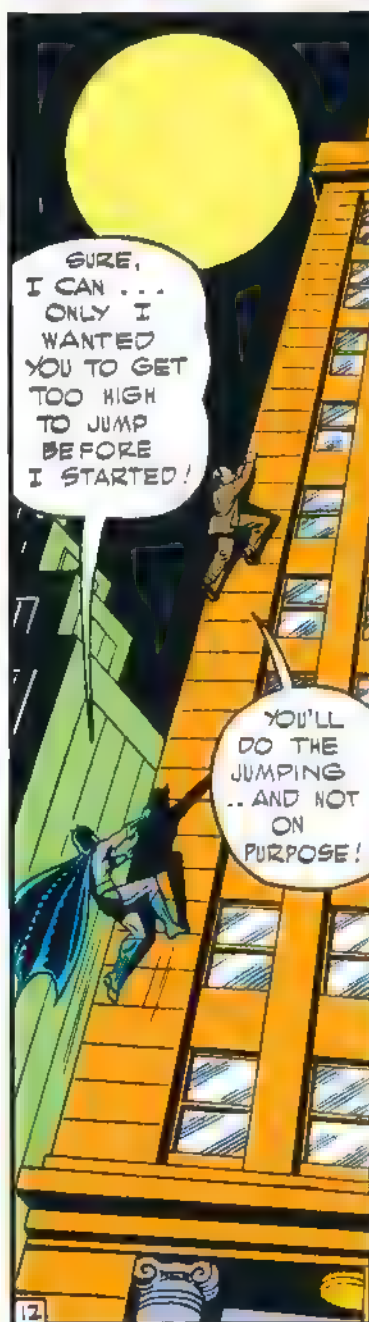
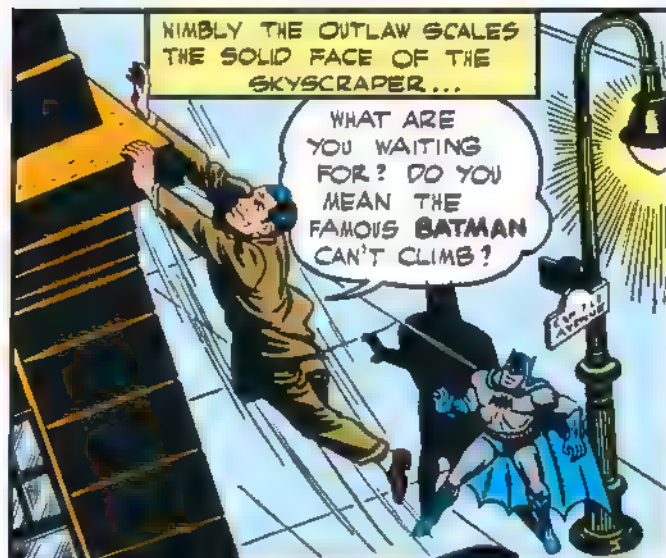


KNUCKLES' PISTOL BLAZES AGAIN AND AGAIN AS A FURIOUS CHASE TWISTS THROUGH THE STREETS...









THE BATMAN SIDESTEPS A MURDEROUS LUNGE, AND...

HERE'S THE
PAYOFF --
HELP!
SAVE ME!

AM
I IN
YOUR
WAY?

DON'T
LET ME FALL,
BATMAN!
ANYTHING BUT
THAT! I'LL
MAKE A FULL
CONFESSION
!

I DON'T KNOW WHY I'M GOING TO
ALL THIS TROUBLE ... FOR RATS
WHO LEAD KIDS INTO TROUBLE !

LATER...IN POLICE COMMISSIONER GORDON'S OFFICE...

...AN' I THOUGHT I
COULD BE LIKE ROBIN,
AND WEAR A CLASSY
UNIFORM. AN' CATCH
CRIMINALS. BUT
I GUESS I'LL
WEAR A REFORM
SCHOOL ONE !

NO, BOBBY... YOU
HELPED CATCH
KNUCKLES, AND
SAVED THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN !

BOBBY, HOW WOULD YOU
LIKE TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL--
A FIRST CLASS SCHOOL?

AND
UNIFORMS
THAT REALLY
ARE
SOME-
THING?

SCHOOL ?
I'D LOVE
IT ! YA
AIN'T
KID-
DIN' ?

SOMETIME LATER...

QUITE
A PLACE,
EH,
DICK ?

YOU
KNOW, SOME-
TIMES I CATCH
MYSELF WISHING
I WAS BOBBY !

WE
RAN INTO
THE BATMAN
AND ROBIN
AND THEY
ASKED US TO
STOP BY AND
SEE HOW YOU'RE
DOING !

GEE,
YOU KNOW
THEM, SIR !?
LOOKIT MY
UNIFORM AN'
ALL THE
MEDALS
I WON
ALREADY !

TELL 'EM I'LL NEVER
FORGET WHAT THEY
DID FOR ME ... AND
TELL ROBIN I WANT
TO BE LIKE HIM !

I'LL TELL
HIM. BOB!
IT'S THE FINEST
COMPLIMENT
HE'S EVER
HAD !

The
End.

BATMAN

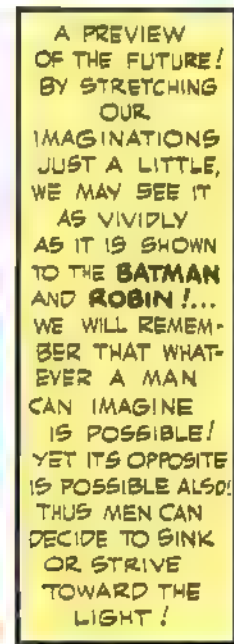
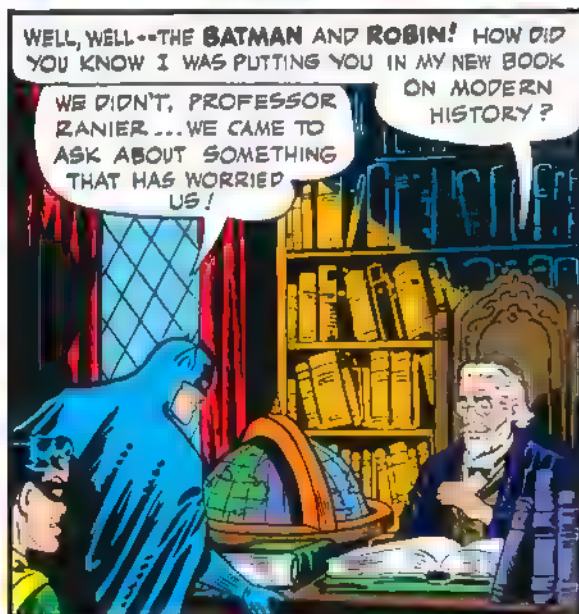
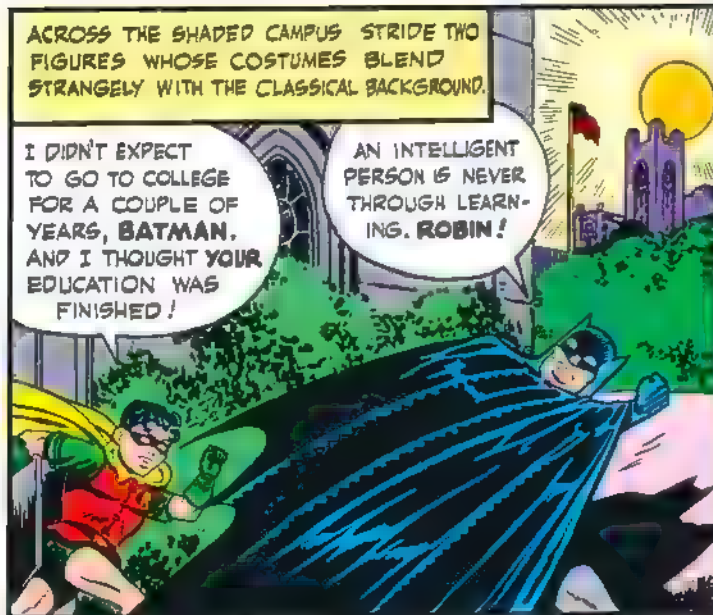
WITH
ROBIN
- THE BOY WONDER -

HAVE YOU WONDERED WHAT IS IN STORE FOR AMERICA -- AND FOR YOU -- WHEN THE SLAVE ARMIES OF THE INSANE DICTATORS HAVE ENDED THEIR MURDEROUS ASSAULT UPON THE DECENT AND PEACEFUL NATIONS OF THE WORLD? HERE IS YOUR ANSWER IN UNFORGETTABLE TERMS GIVEN BY THE MIGHTY **BATMAN** AND HIS LOYAL **ROBIN**, WHO WONDERED, TOO ---- AND DISCOVERED THAT WHILE THE PAST IS BEYOND CHANGING, AND THE PRESENT DARKENED BY THE THUNDERCLOUDS OF WAR, THE FUTURE STILL BELONGS TO THOSE OF US WITH COURAGE TO MAKE OF IT WHAT WE WILL! A NIGHTMARE OF SHUDDERY TERROR ... OR A GOLDEN ERA OF GLORIOUS DREAMS COME TRUE ... YOU HAVE ONLY TO CHOOSE BETWEEN THEM WHEN YOU HAVE READ THIS GRIPPING TALE OF ---

"THE TWO FUTURES!"

GOTHAM CITY DUMP

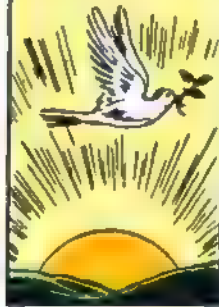
GOTHAM UNIVERSITY...WHERE THE WISDOM OF THE AGES IS CONCENTRATED... AND MEN LOOK OUT UPON THE WORLD WITH CLEARER VISION THAN MOST OF US POSSESS...



THE WAR THAT EVIL MEN PLOTTED THROUGH LONG YEARS WILL HARDLY END TOMORROW OR NEXT WEEK...



... YET THE DAY WILL SURELY COME WHEN THE DEMONS OF DESTRUCTION ARE GLUTTED, AND THE DOVE OF PEACE STRETCHES ITS WINGS ONCE MORE...



BUT WHAT KIND OF A PEACE IS THIS THAT HAS COME TO GOTHAM CITY? AND WHO ARE THESE SOLDIERS WHO MARCH THE STREETS?



THE THUNDER OF BOMBS HAS CEASED... BUT NOT THE CHATTER OF MURDEROUS GUNFIRE...



ALL AMERICANS WHO REFUSE TO KNEEL TO HONORABLE JAPANESE EMPEROR MUST BE EXECUTED!

FOR THE FIRST TIME IN CENTURIES, THE GIBBET REARS ITS UGLY BEAMS IN THE PUBLIC SQUARE...

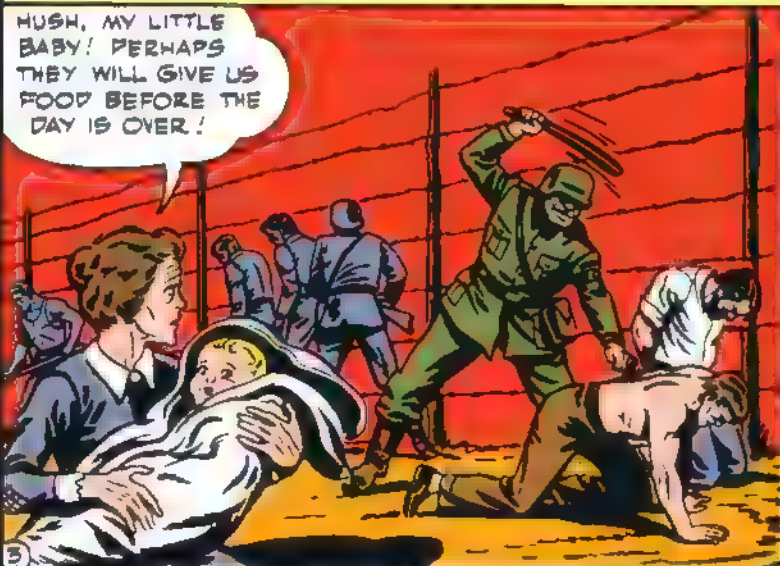
THIS IS VERY RICH CITY! THE LOOTING IS VERY GOOD, YES?



ACH! WE ARE SENDING VALUABLES TO DER FUHRER IN BERLIN!

AND THE CROWNING HORROR OF THE CONCENTRATION CAMP COMES INTO BEING...

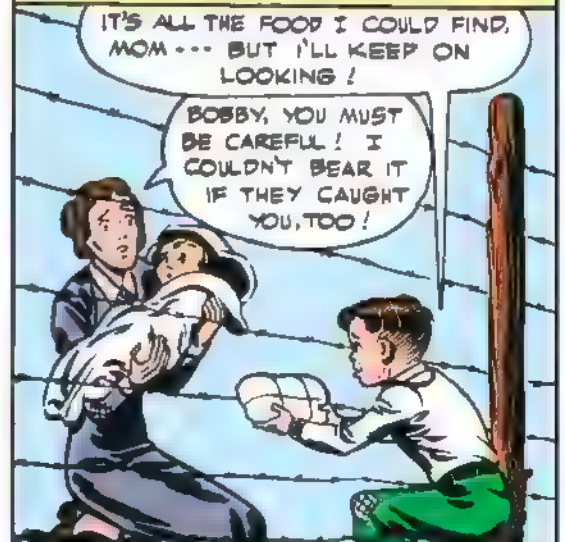
HUSH, MY LITTLE BABY! PERHAPS THEY WILL GIVE US FOOD BEFORE THE DAY IS OVER!



LITTLE BOBBY LOGAN BRAVES THE WRATH OF THE CONQUERORS TO COMFORT HIS MOTHER AND BABY BROTHER...

IT'S ALL THE FOOD I COULD FIND, MOM... BUT I'LL KEEP ON LOOKING!

BOBBY, YOU MUST BE CAREFUL! I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF THEY CAUGHT YOU, TOO!





SO YOU LITTLE SPY! IT IS **VERBOTEN** TO COME NEAR DER PRISONERS!

OW! LEGGO MY HAIR!



SMUGGLED FOOD, HEIN? FOR THAT YOU WILL NOT BE FED AT ALL!

YOU CAN'T DO THIS TO AMERICANS!

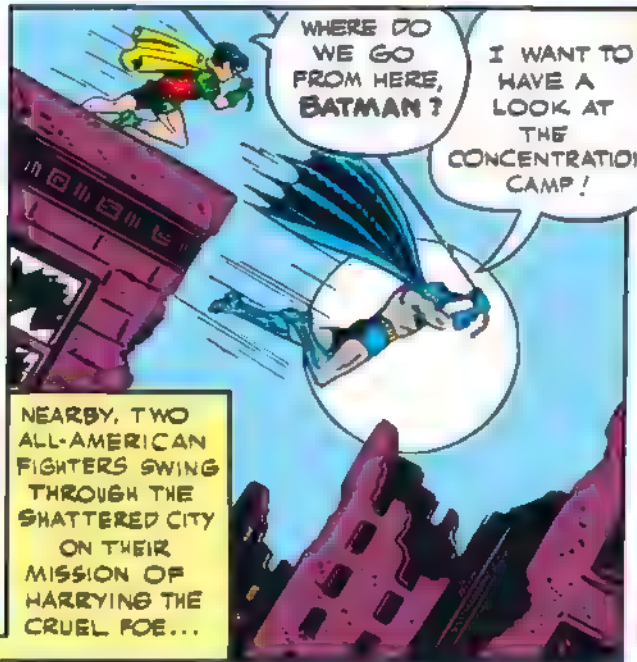
DON'T HURT HIM! DON'T HURT MY BOY!

OUCH!



DER LITTLE BRAT WILL NEFFER KICK ANNUDDER SOLDIER OF DER FUEHRER!

O.O.O
OH-H-H-H!



WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE, BATMAN?

I WANT TO HAVE A LOOK AT THE CONCENTRATION CAMP!

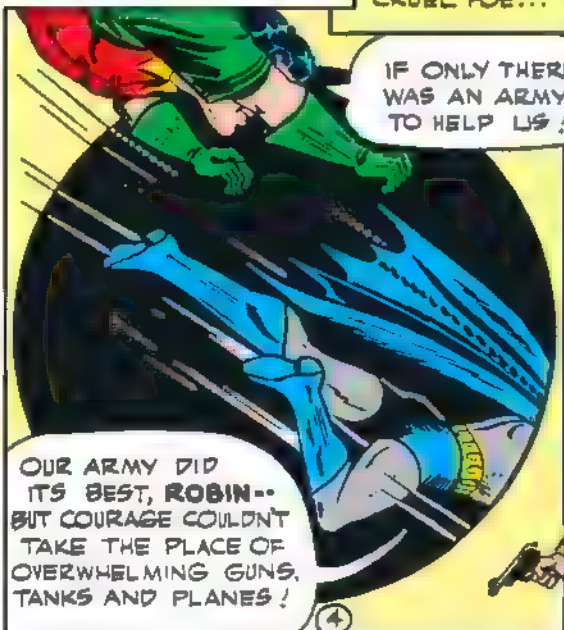
NEARBY, TWO ALL-AMERICAN FIGHTERS SWING THROUGH THE SHATTERED CITY ON THEIR MISSION OF HARRYING THE CRUEL FOE...



MOMENTS LATER...

LOOK! THE BULLIES ARE PICKING ON A LITTLE KID!

IT MAY BE THE LAST THING WE'LL EVER DO-- BUT WE'LL PUT A STOP TO THAT!



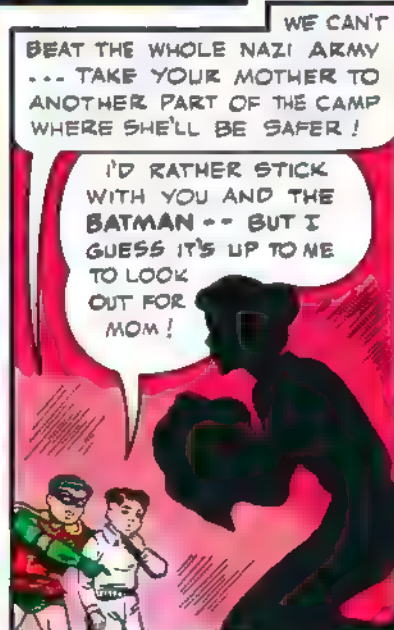
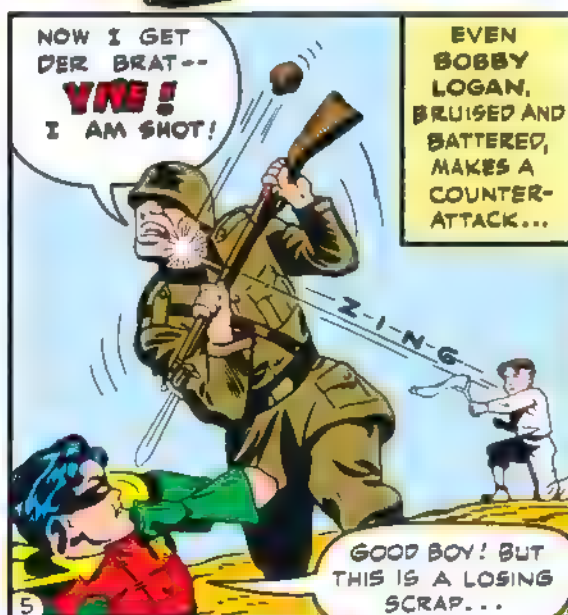
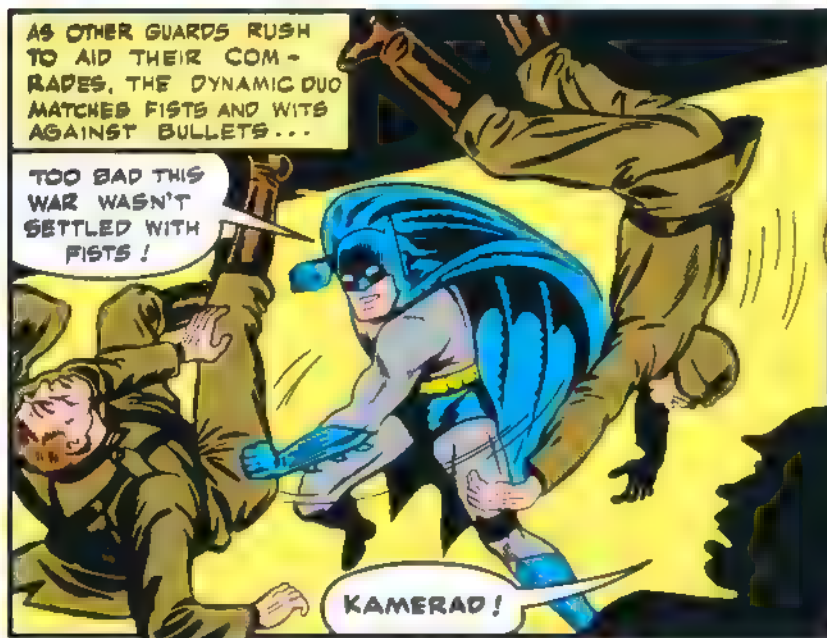
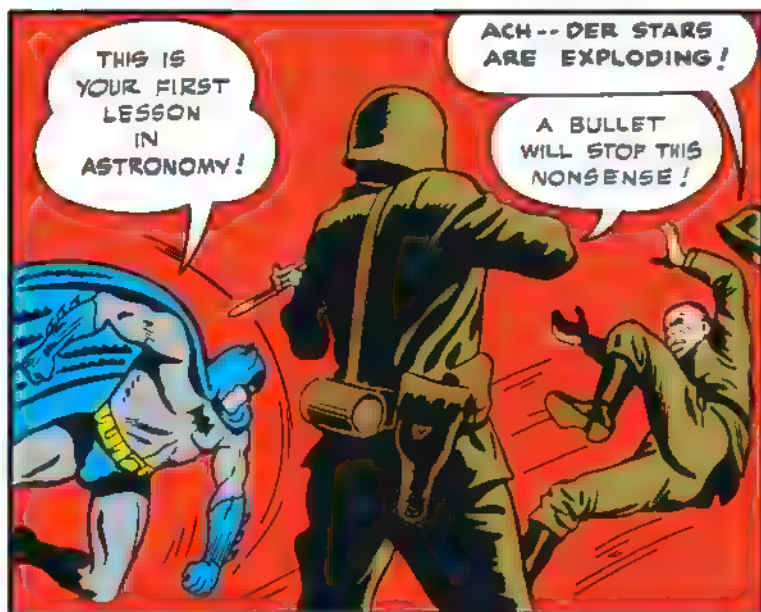
IF ONLY THERE WAS AN ARMY TO HELP US!

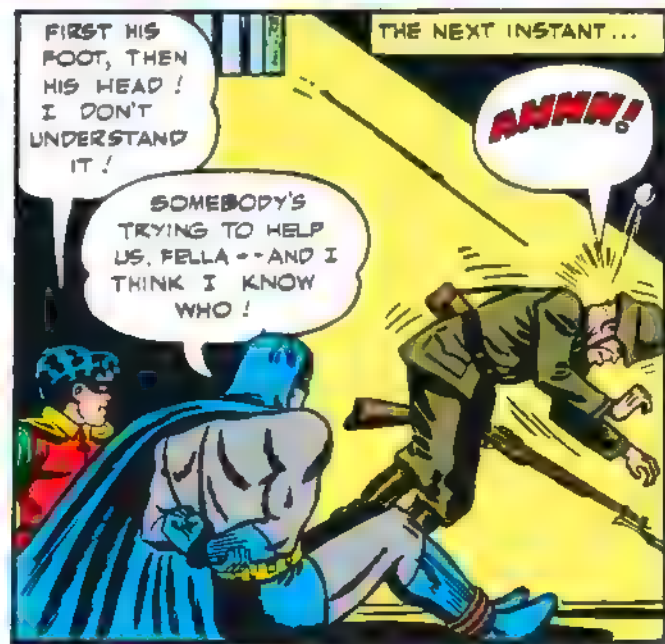
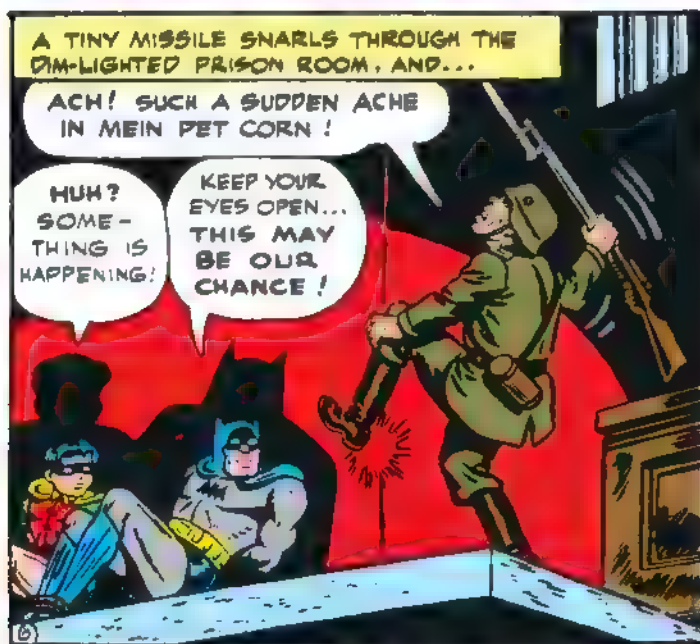
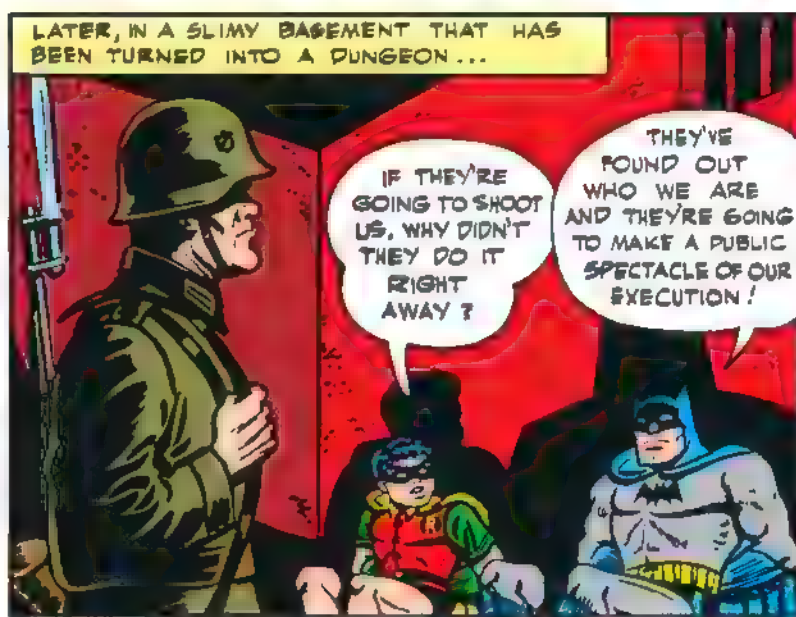
OUR ARMY DID ITS BEST, ROBIN-- BUT COURAGE COULDN'T TAKE THE PLACE OF OVERWHELMING GUNS, TANKS AND PLANES!

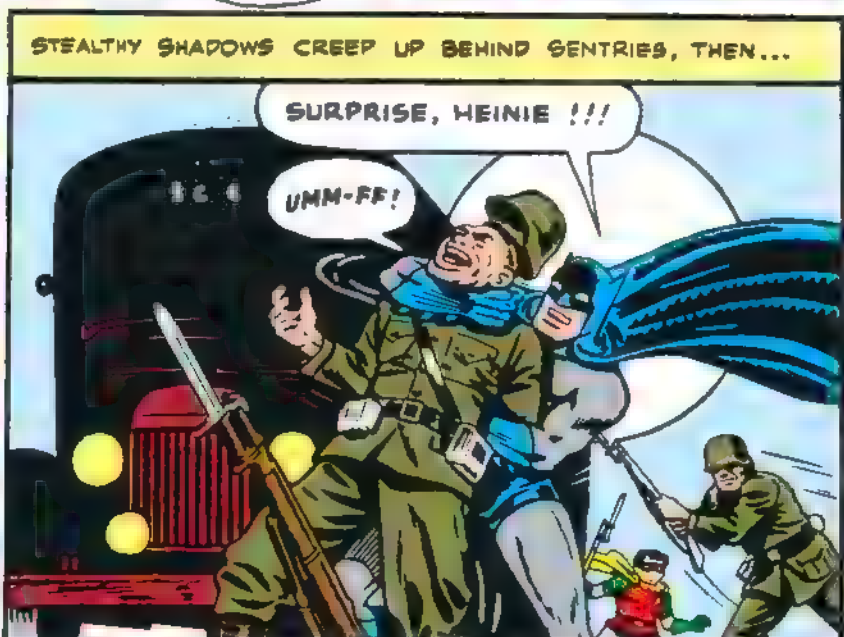
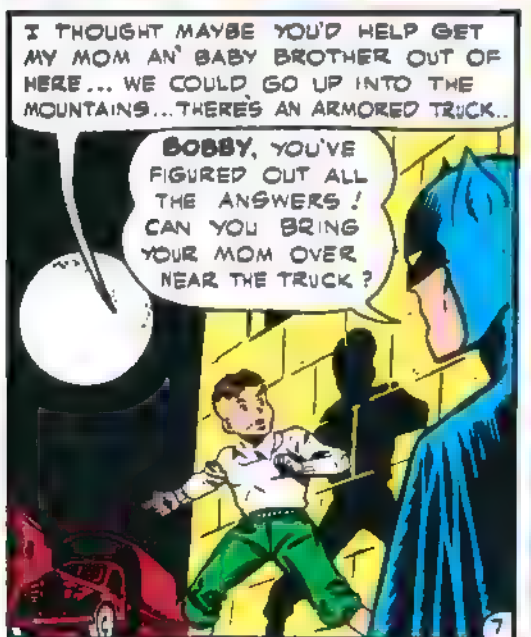
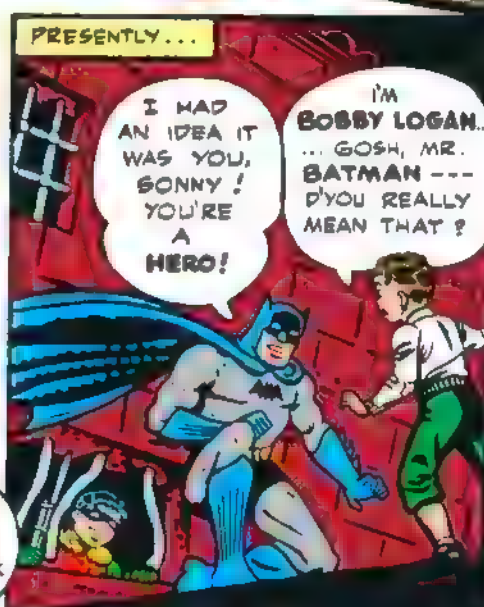
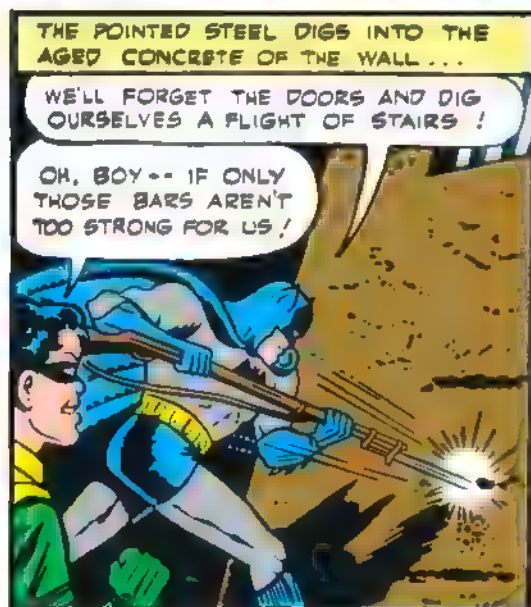
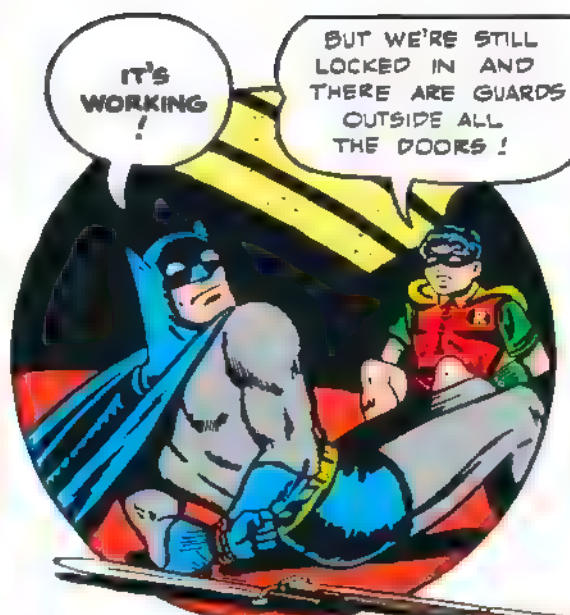


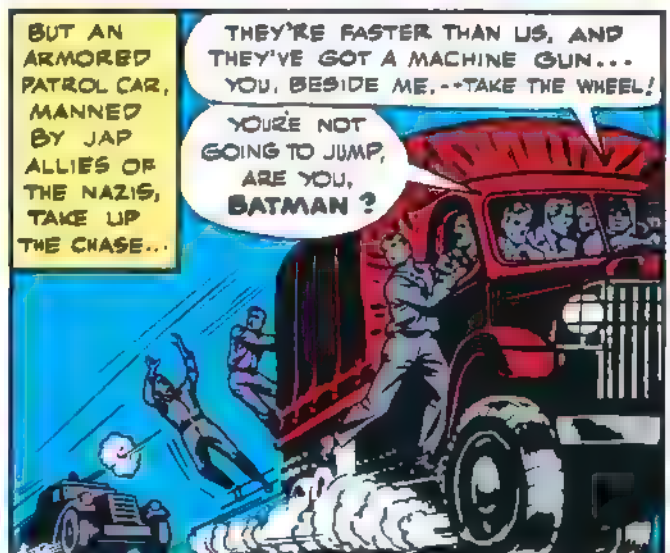
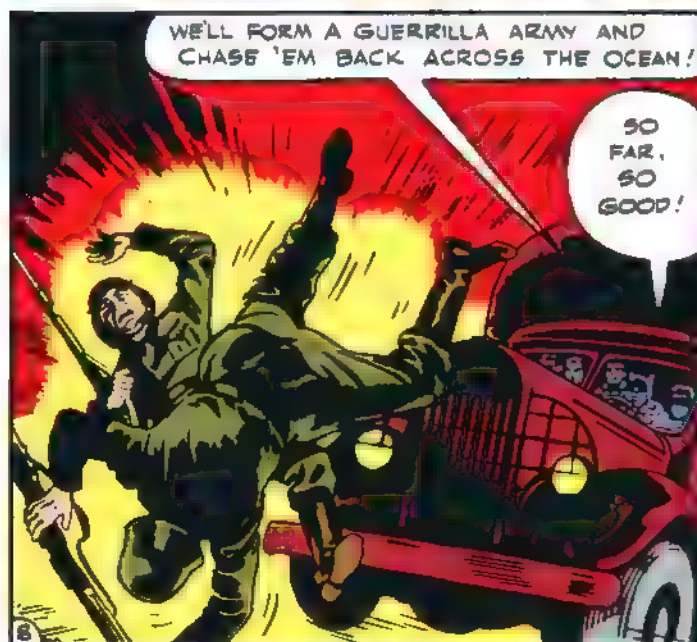
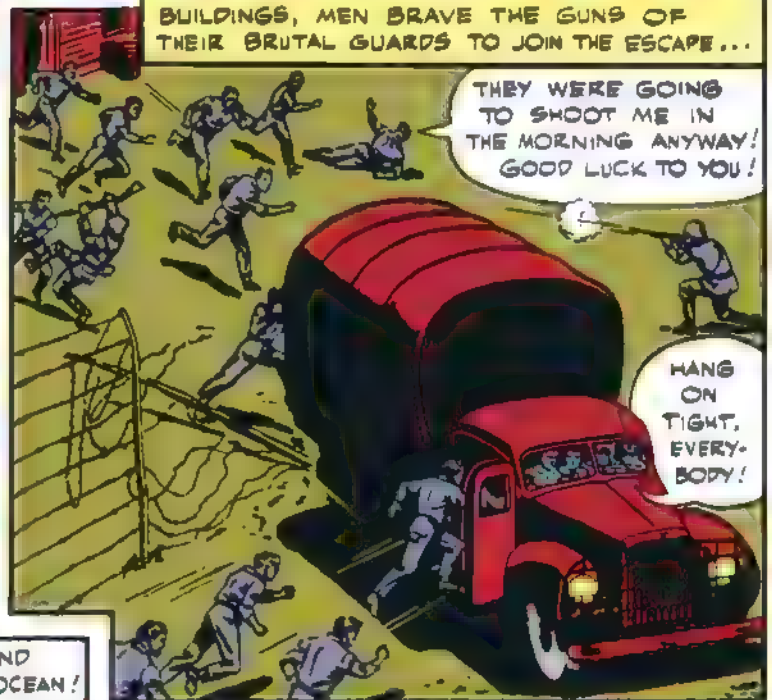
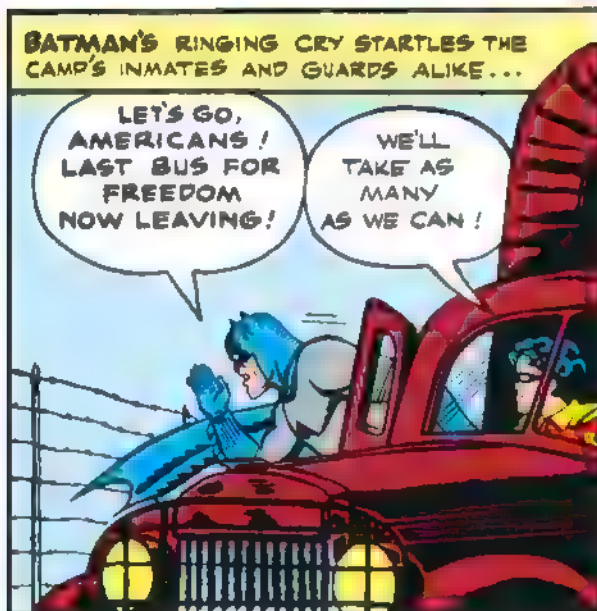
HIMMEL-- DER MEN FROM MARS ARE ATTACKING!

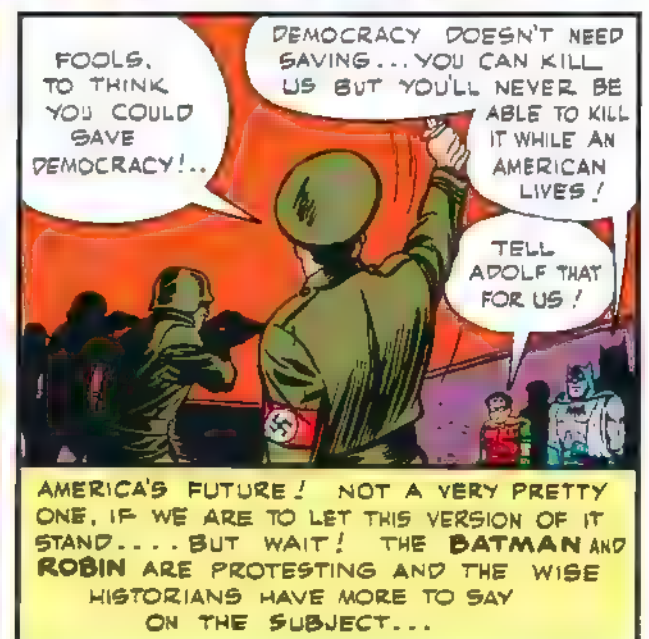
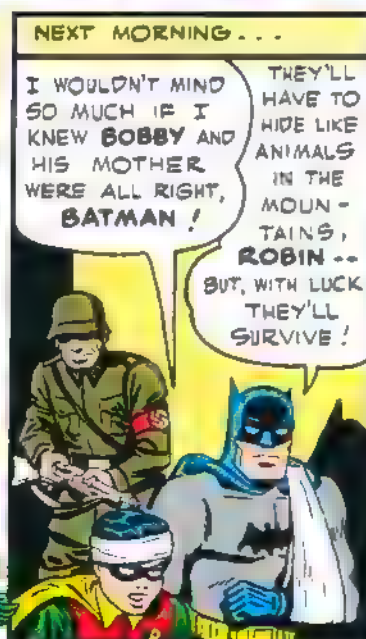
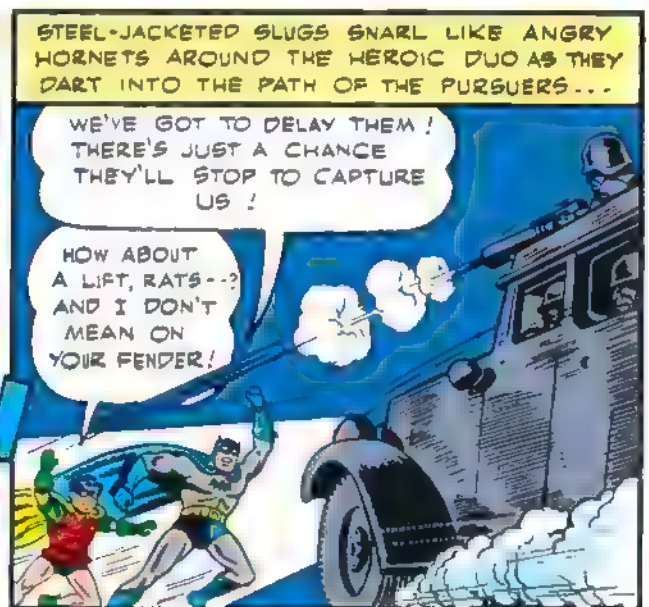
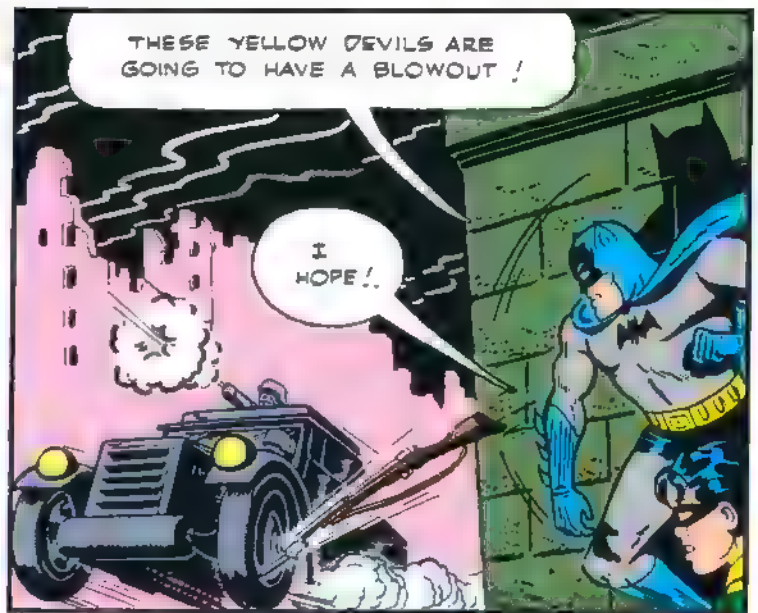
I'LL SHOW YOU MARS IN A SECOND----- AND ALL THE OTHER PLANETS!











FOR ONCE, THE JUDGMENT OF THE LEARNED PROFESSORS IS HOTLY DISPUTED...

YOU MAY BE FAMOUS PROFESSORS BUT YOU'RE **WRONG!** NOTHING LIKE THAT COULD EVER HAPPEN HERE!

IT WOULD MEAN THE **END OF EVERYTHING WE CHERISH!**

PATIENCE, GENTLEMEN... IF THE PEOPLE ARE INDIFFERENT- IF THEY DO NOT DO THEIR FULL SHARE IN THIS TOTAL WAR- IT **COULD HAPPEN HERE!**

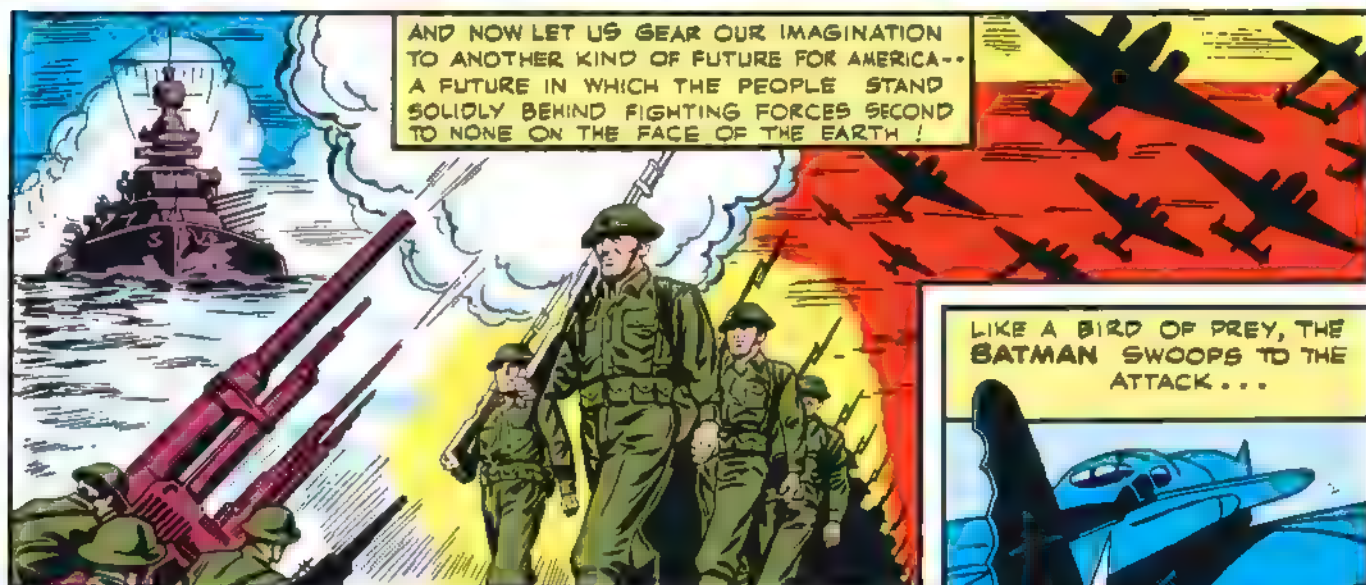
IT HAPPENED IN POLAND, HOLLAND, FRANCE!

IT HAPPENED IN SHANGHAI, SINGAPORE, JAVA!

THEN WHAT YOU'RE REALLY SHOWING US IS WHAT WE CAN AVOID BY BEING READY FOR WHATEVER COMES!

IT'LL BE A DIFFERENT STORY IF OUR FIGHTERS ARE ON THEIR TOES, EH?

NOT ONLY FOR OUR UNIFORMED FIGHTERS, ROBIN... EVERY MAN, WOMAN AND CHILD MUST WIN THIS WAR!



AND NOW LET US GEAR OUR IMAGINATION TO ANOTHER KIND OF FUTURE FOR AMERICA-- A FUTURE IN WHICH THE PEOPLE STAND SOLIDLY BEHIND FIGHTING FORCES SECOND TO NONE ON THE FACE OF THE EARTH!

LIKE A BIRD OF PREY, THE BATMAN SWOOPS TO THE ATTACK...



ABROAD, THE AXIS HORDE BOWS BEFORE THE ALLIED MIGHT WHILE AT HOME THE **BATPLANE** TYPIFIES A NATION'S VIGILANCE!

THE DIRECTIONAL WAVE FINDER SHOWS THAT THE ENEMY BROADCASTING STATION IS RIGHT AROUND HERE, **BATMAN!**

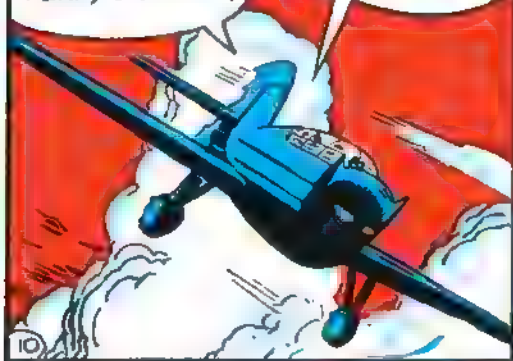
I'LL TAKE HER DOWN AND WHEN WE SIGHT THE AERIAL MASTS, YOU TAKE THE CONTROLS!

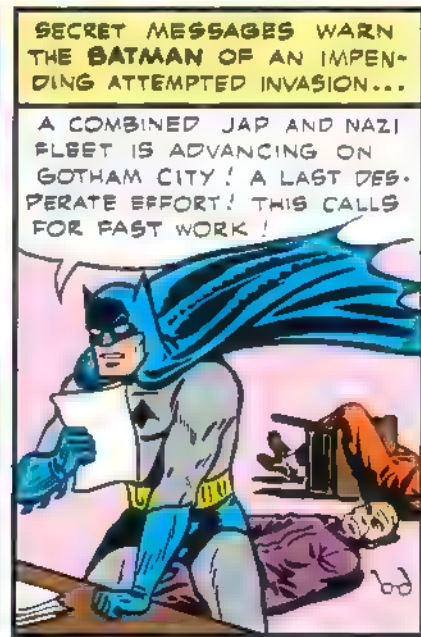
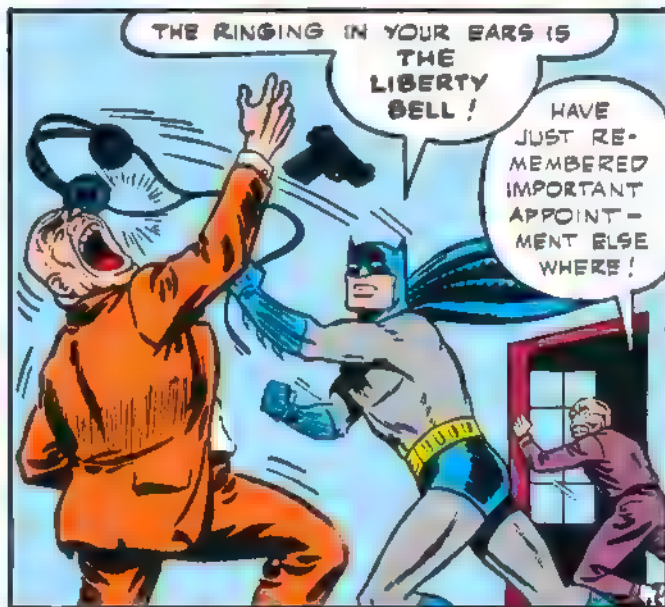
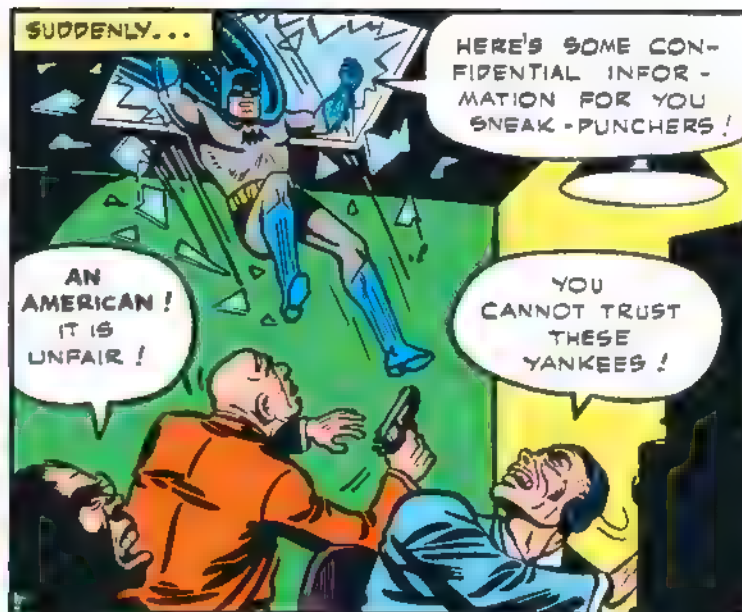
THERE THEY ARE!

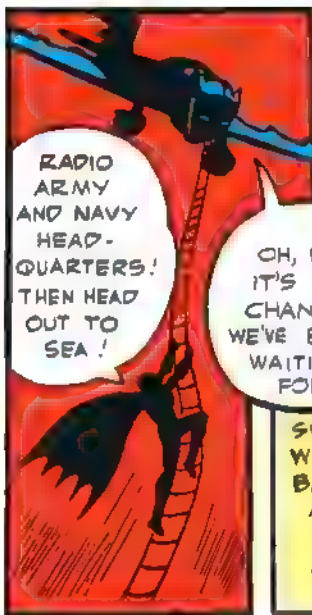
JUST IN TIME, TOO! THE SPIES ARE SENDING OUT SECRET MILITARY INFORMATION TO AN AXIS FLEET AT SEA!

TAKE CARE OF YOURSELF!

I'LL TAKE CARE OF EVERYBODY CONCERNED!



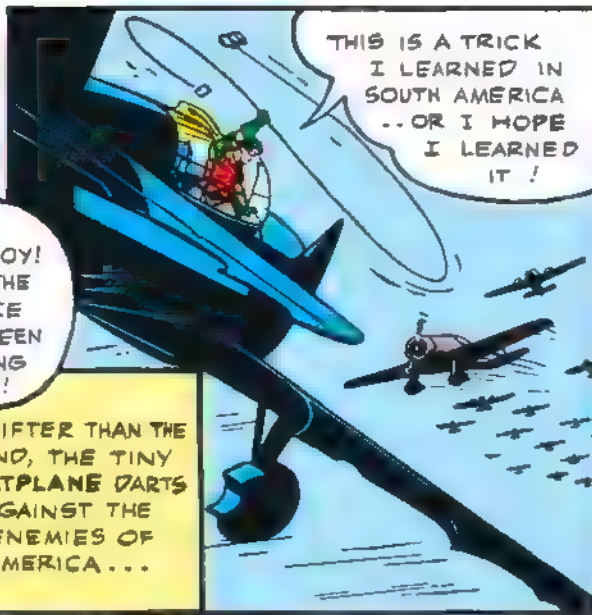




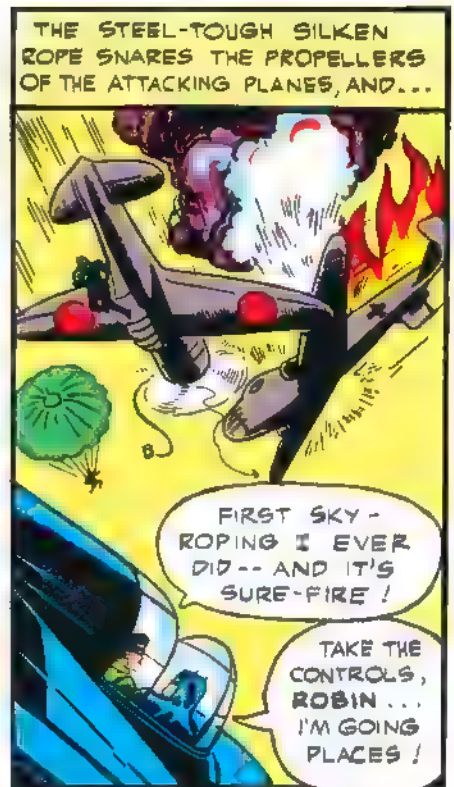
RADIO
ARMY
AND NAVY
HEAD-
QUARTERS!
THEN HEAD
OUT TO
SEA!

OH, BOY!
IT'S THE
CHANCE
WE'VE BEEN
WAITING
FOR!

SWIFTER THAN THE
WIND, THE TINY
BATPLANE DARTS
AGAINST THE
ENEMIES OF
AMERICA...



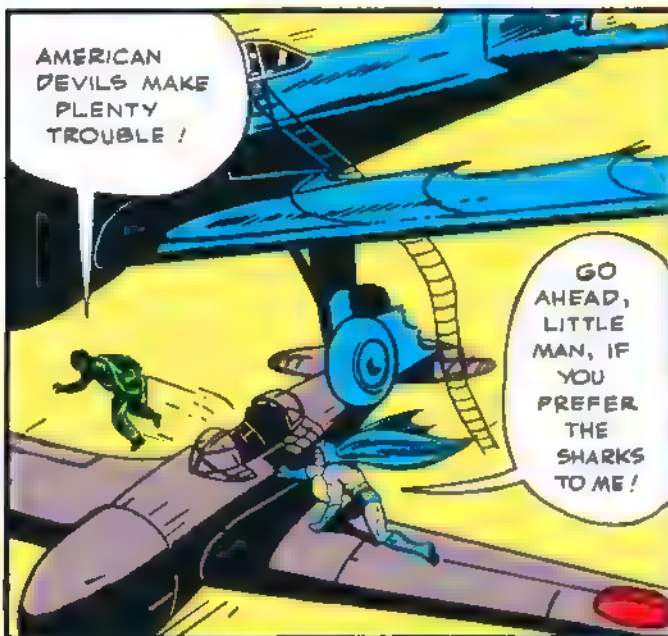
THIS IS A TRICK
I LEARNED IN
SOUTH AMERICA
...OR I HOPE
I LEARNED
IT!



THE STEEL-TOUGH SILKEN
ROPE SNARES THE PROPELLERS
OF THE ATTACKING PLANES, AND...

FIRST SKY-
ROPING I EVER
DID-- AND IT'S
SURE-FIRE!

TAKE THE
CONTROLS,
ROBIN...
I'M GOING
PLACES!



AMERICAN
DEVILS MAKE
PLENTY
TROUBLE!

GO
AHEAD,
LITTLE
MAN, IF
YOU
PREFER
THE
SHARKS
TO ME!

GUIDING THE
CAPTURED PLANE
TOWARD THE
FLAGSHIP OF
THE AXIS FLEET,
THE BATMAN
TRANSFERS
TO THE BATPLANE!



THAT
OUGHT TO
HOLD THEM
FOR A
WHILE!

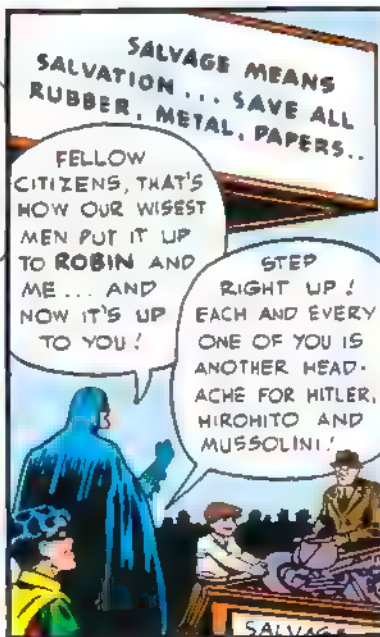
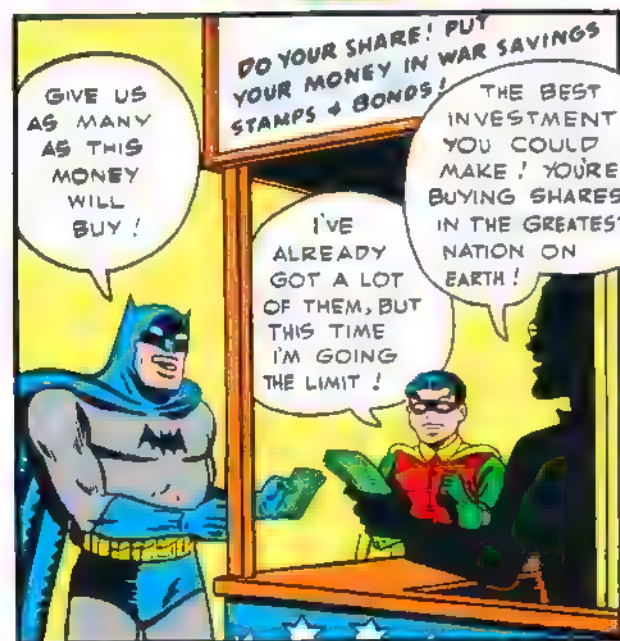
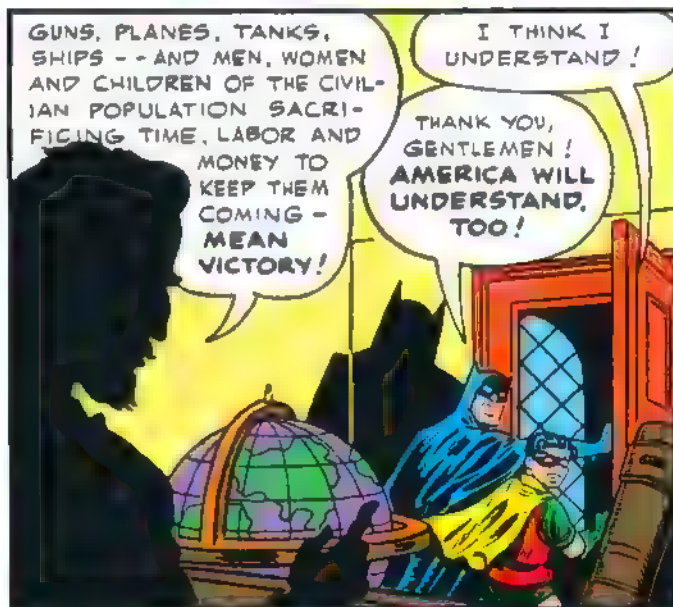
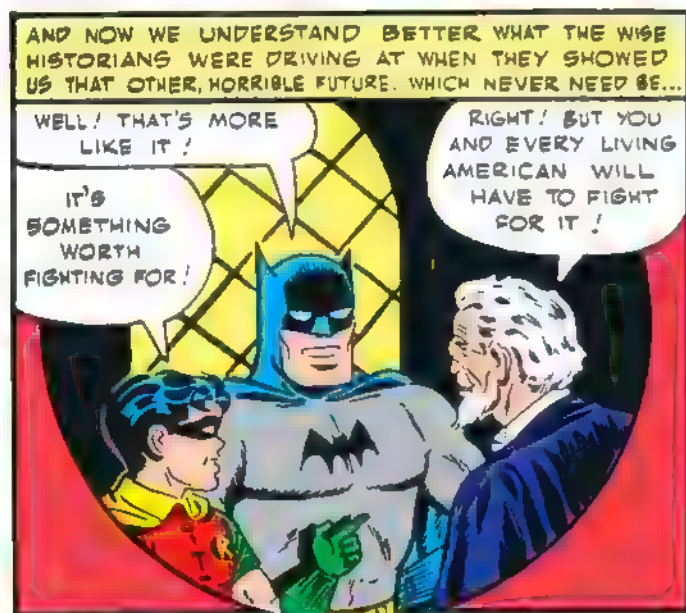
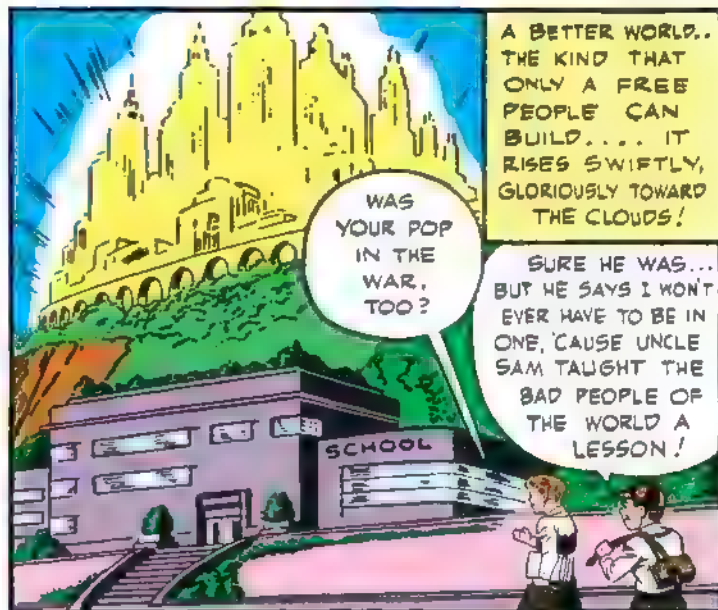
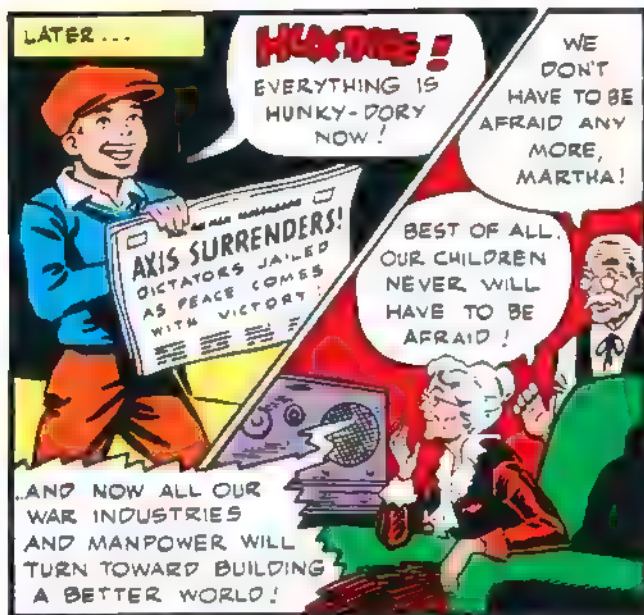
THEY'LL HAVE A
LONG SWIM BACK
TO WHERE THEY
CAME FROM!

WARNED BY THE BATPLANE'S RADIO, AMERICAN GUNS, PLANES AND SHIPS GO INTO ACTION...



THERE'S OUR FLEET!
IT'S A GOOD THING
WE BUILT THOSE
NEW SHIPS!

AND IT'S A GOOD
THING WE BUILT UP
THE WORLD'S MOST
POWERFUL AIR FORCE!
LOOK AT THEM KNOCK-
ING THE ENEMY RIGHT
OUT OF THE SKY!



BAT MAN

WITH
ROBIN

BOB
KANE

"MERRY
CHRISTMAS
TO LOVERS OF HIGH ADVENTURE
EVERYWHERE!" -

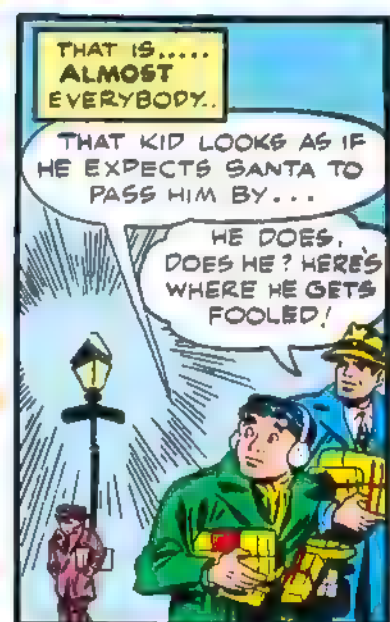
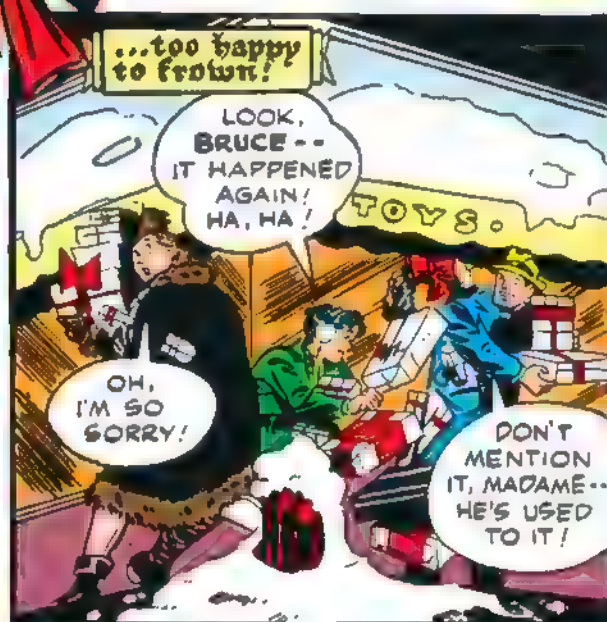
BATMAN AND ROBIN!...

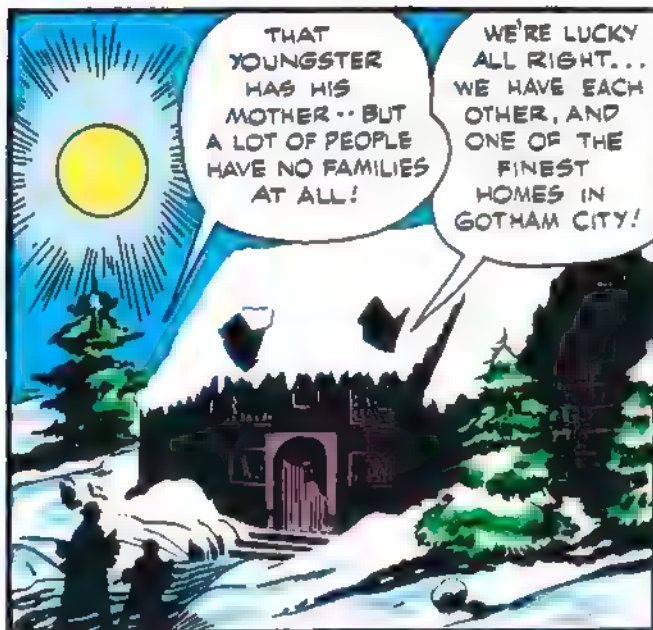
WHEN THE MIGHTY CHAMPIONS OF
JUSTICE SWEEP ACROSS A WINTER'S
NIGHT, CARRYING HAPPINESS TO STRANGE,
SAD PLACES, A VENGEFUL UNDERWORLD
CHIEFTAIN SEIZES THE OPPORTUNITY TO
STRIKE TREACHEROUSLY AT HIS MOST
HATED ENEMIES! TEARS AND LAUGH-
TER, THRILLS AND HAIRBREADTH ES-
CAPES, ROMANCE AND PERIL--ALL
THESE BLEND INTO AN AMAZING
CHRISTMAS EVE WHEN THE
BATMAN AND ROBIN
MEET ---

"THE LONELIEST MEN
IN THE WORLD."

Merry Christmas







THAT YOUNGSTER HAS HIS MOTHER -- BUT A LOT OF PEOPLE HAVE NO FAMILIES AT ALL!

WE'RE LUCKY ALL RIGHT... WE HAVE EACH OTHER, AND ONE OF THE FINEST HOMES IN GOTHAM CITY!



DOZENS OF FRIENDS SEND US PRESENTS. BUT SOME PEOPLE HAVE NO FRIENDS!

IT MUST BE AWFUL TO BE LONELY AT CHRISTMAS! YOU KNOW, I WAS LOOKING FORWARD TO JUST ENJOYING OURSELVES -- BUT...

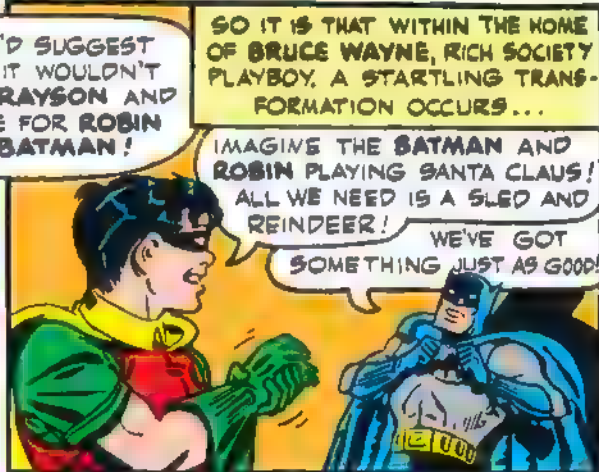


BUT WHAT, DICK?

WELL, WOULDN'T IT BE NICE IF WE COULD BRING SOME CHEER TO -- WELL, LET ME SEE...

I'VE GOT IT! TO THE LONELIEST MEN IN THE WORLD!

I WAS HOPING YOU'D SUGGEST IT! ONLY I FIGURE IT WOULDN'T BE A JOB FOR DICK GRAYSON AND BRUCE WAYNE -- BUT ONE FOR ROBIN AND THE BATMAN!



SO IT IS THAT WITHIN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, RICH SOCIETY PLAYBOY, A STARTLING TRANSFORMATION OCCURS...

IMAGINE THE BATMAN AND ROBIN PLAYING SANTA CLAUS! ALL WE NEED IS A SLED AND REINDEER! WE'VE GOT SOMETHING JUST AS GOOD!

WORKING SWIFTLY, THE PAIR MAKES MANY TRIPS THROUGH THE TUNNEL THAT CONNECTS THE HOUSE WITH THE SECRET HANGAR OF THAT SENSATIONAL CRAFT, THE BATPLANE...



ONE MORE TRIP AND WE'RE READY TO START!

IT WOULDN'T TAKE MANY MORE TRIPS LIKE THIS TO FINISH ME!

PRESENTLY...

HOW DO YOU LIKE IT?

IT'S A REGULAR SANTA CLAUS SLED, WITH RUNNERS, SLEIGH BELLS AND EVERYTHING!... THIS IS GOING TO BE MORE FUN THAN ANYTHING WE'VE DONE IN A LONG TIME!



RIGHT, ROBIN!... BUT FUN ISN'T ALL YOU AND THE BATMAN ARE GOING TO ENCOUNTER IN THIS NIGHT'S ADVENTURE!... FOR THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTMAS HAS NEVER YET PENETRATED THE DARK DEPTHS OF THE UNDERWORLD... AND THE UNDERWORLD HAS NEVER CEASED TO HATE AND FEAR WHAT YOU STAND FOR!

A WEIRD, BATWINGED
SHAPE SOARS INTO THE
GRAY WINTER SKY BOUND
ON THE STRANGEST VOYAGE
IT HAS EVER ATTEMPTED...

BATMAN, WHO DO YOU THINK IS
THE LONELIEST MAN ON EARTH?

I'M NOT SURE, ROBIN--
BUT I HAVE A LIST OF
THREE WHO AREN'T
FAR FROM IT!



THERE'S POLICE
HEADQUARTERS...
AND THERE ARE
LIGHTS IN COMMIS-
SIONER GORDON'S
OFFICE!

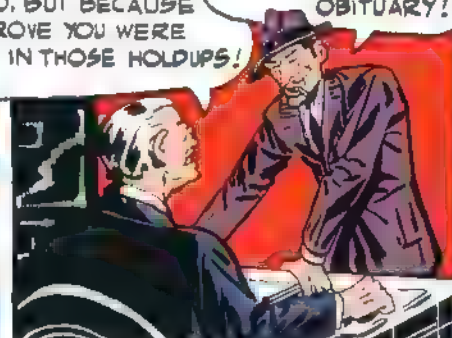
HE ISN'T ON
MY LIST, BUT IT
WON'T HURT TO
STOP IN AND
GIVE HIM THE
SEASON'S
GREETINGS!



WE FIND COMMISSIONER
GORDON IN CONFERENCE WITH
ONE DIRK DAGNER, A NOTORIOUS
CHIEF OF AN UNDERWORLD
GANG...

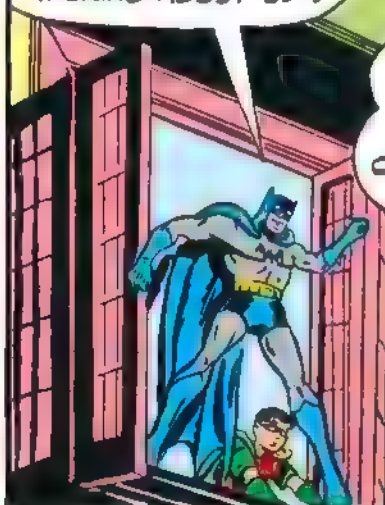
YOU OUGHT TO BE-
LIEVE IN SANTA CLAUS,
DIRK! WE'RE NOT LET-
TING YOU GO BECAUSE
WE WANT TO, BUT BECAUSE
WE CAN'T PROVE YOU WERE
MIXED UP IN THOSE HOLDUPS!

I'LL BELIEVE IN
SANTA CLAUS
WHEN I READ
THE BATMAN'S
OBITUARY!



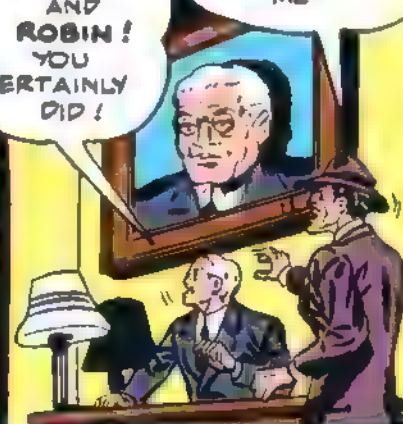
THE NEXT INSTANT...

DID I HEAR SOMEONE
TALKING ABOUT US?



BATMAN
AND
ROBIN!
YOU
CERTAINLY
DID!

HUH?...
LISTEN, IF
YOU GUYS CAME
HERE TO MAKE
TROUBLE FOR
ME--

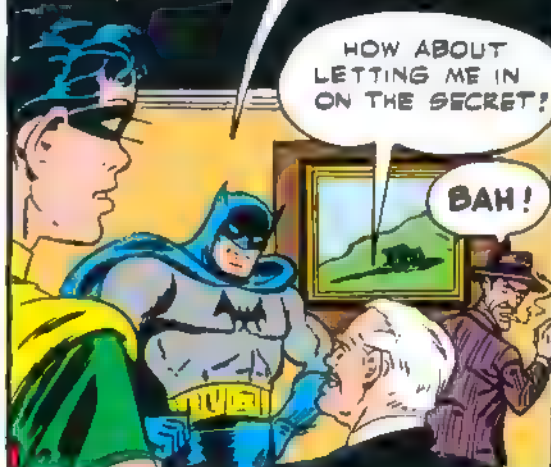


MAYBE LATER,
DIRK... BUT
JUST NOW
WE'RE BUSY
CELEBRATING
CHRISTMAS!

AND WE'VE
THOUGHT UP
A BRAND NEW
WAY TO DO IT!

HOW ABOUT
LETTING ME IN
ON THE SECRET?

BAH!



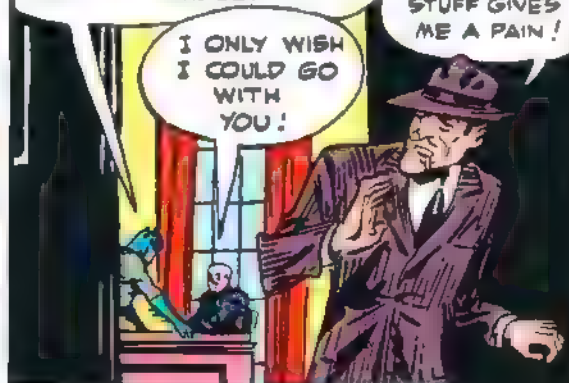
FIRST, WE'RE GIVING A
SURPRISE PARTY FOR THE
DOORMAN AT THE SWANKY
CRANE CLUB! THEN WE'LL
CALL ON LINK CHESNEY,
THE RADIO HUMORIST AND
THE GLOOMIEST MAN IN
GOTHAM CITY...



FINALLY WE'LL VISIT THE
OLD LIGHTHOUSE KEEPER
AT PIRATE REEF WHO
SPENDS MONTHS ON END
ALL BY HIMSELF!

I ONLY WISH
I COULD GO
WITH
YOU!

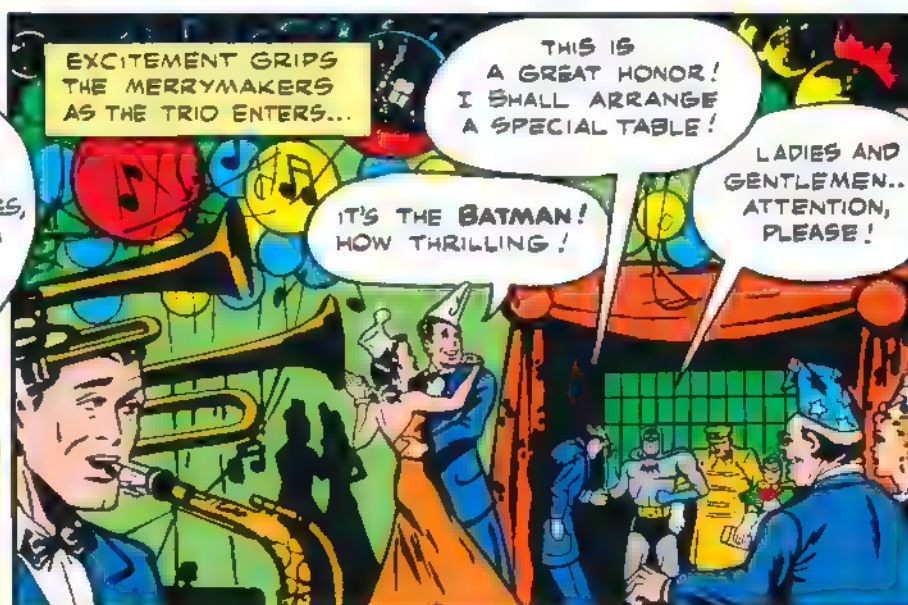
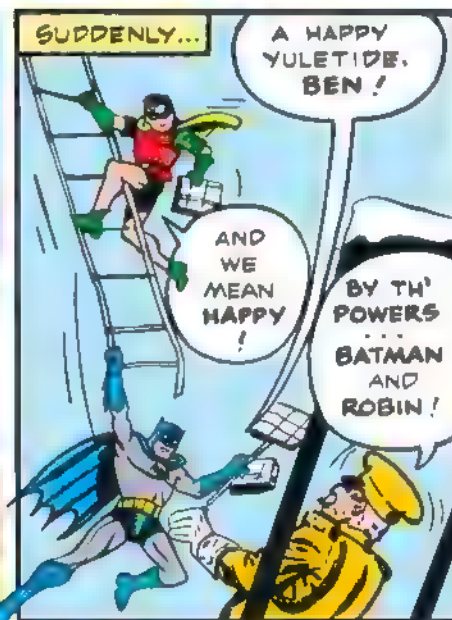
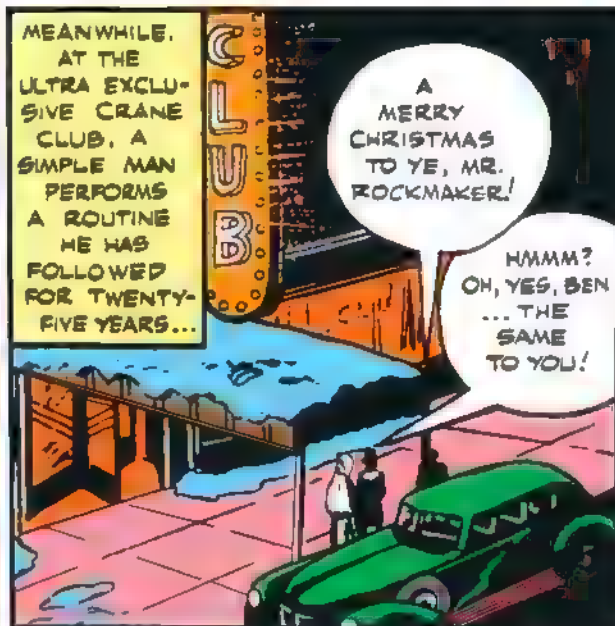
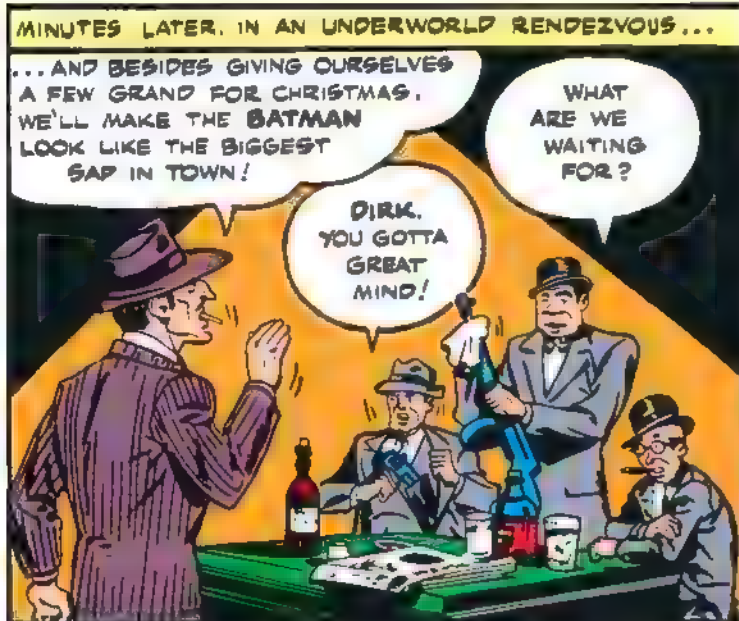
THAT
SENTIMENTAL
STUFF GIVES
ME A PAIN!

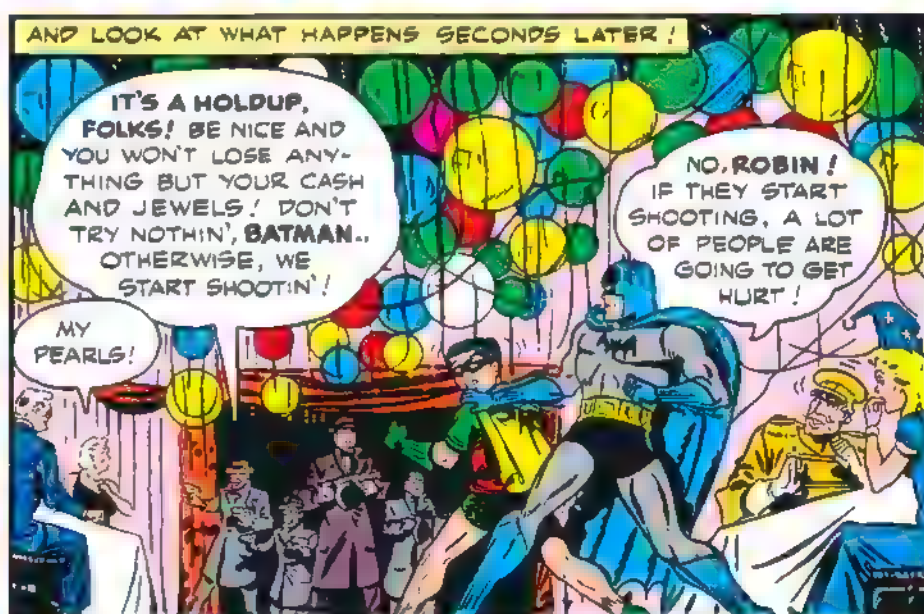
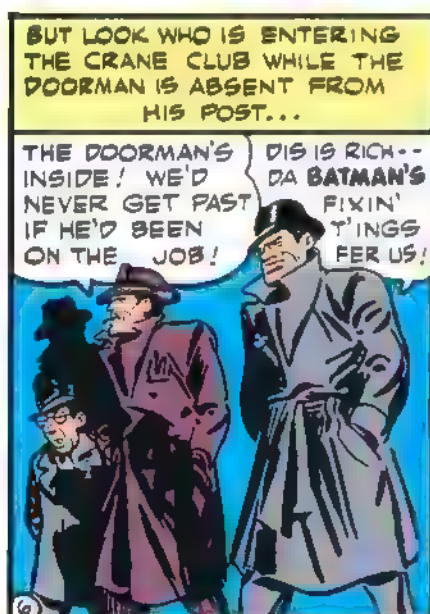
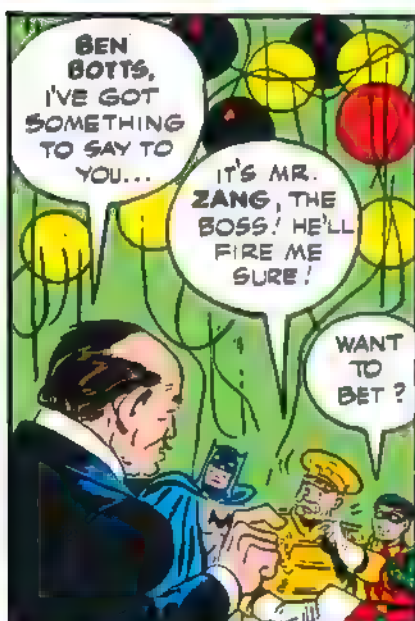
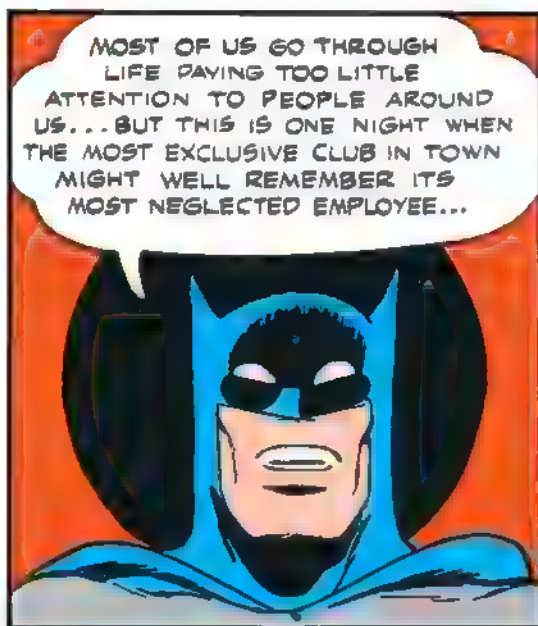


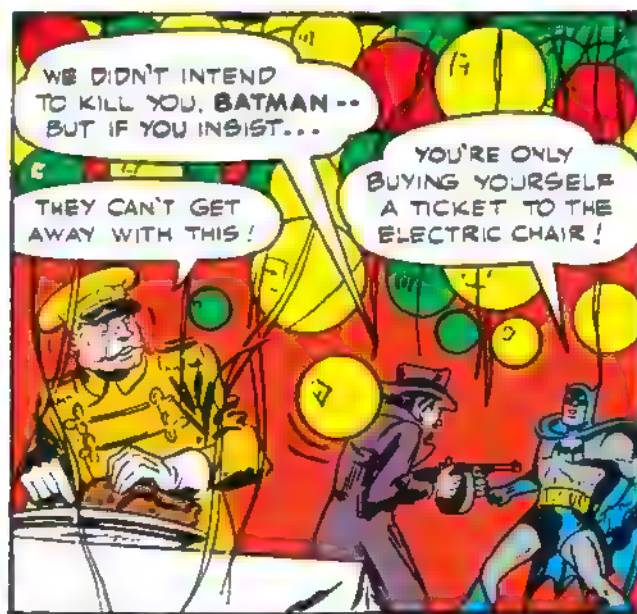
BUT AS DIRK DAGNER
LEAVES HEADQUARTERS
A FREE MAN, HIS CUNNING
BRAIN IS BUSY...

POLICE AND IT ALSO
GIVES ME AN IDEA
HOW TO MAKE SOME
DOUGH AND AT THE
SAME TIME
GIVE THE
BATMAN THE
WORST CHRIST-
MAS HE EVER
HAD!





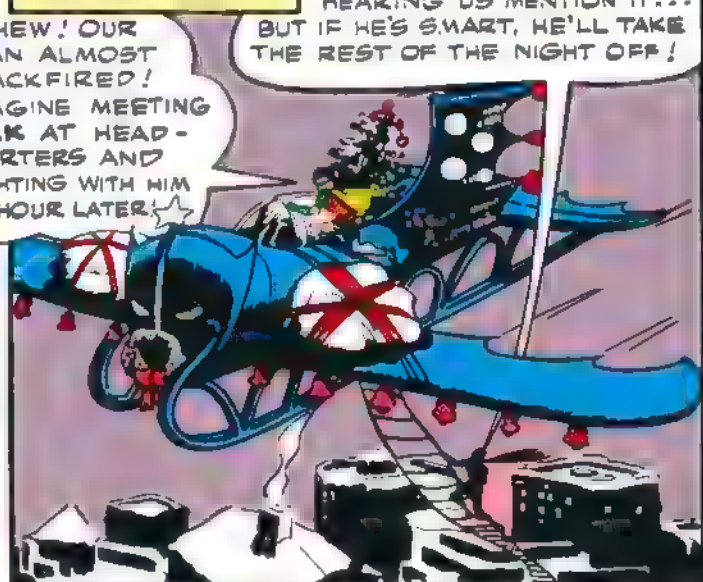




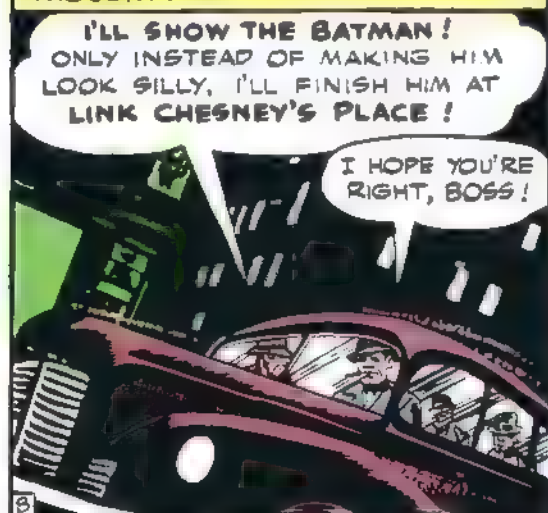


AND THE EVENING ENDS HAPPILY, AFTER ALL!

MINUTES LATER...



BUT DIRK'S BRAIN, INFLAMED WITH HATRED, HAS ROOM FOR ONLY ONE THOUGHT...

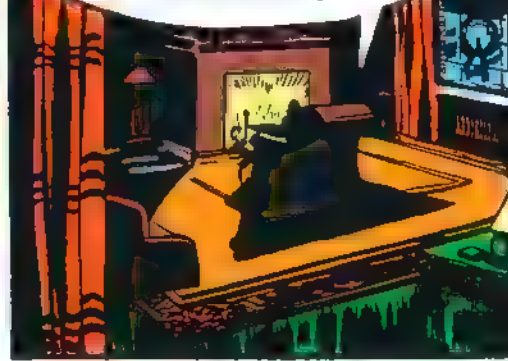


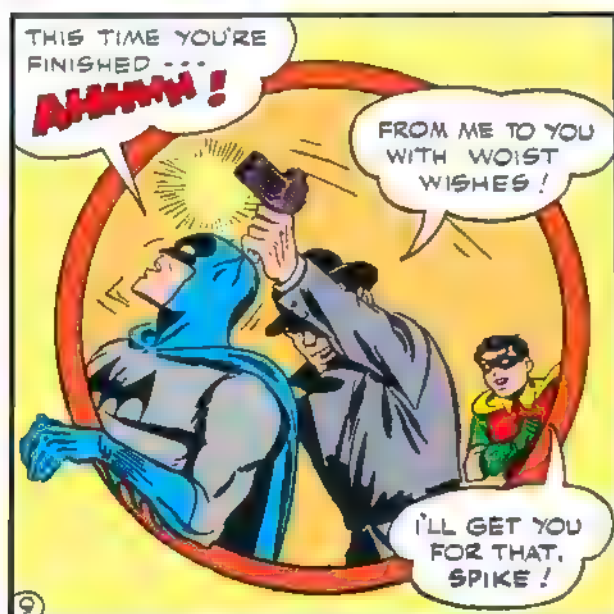
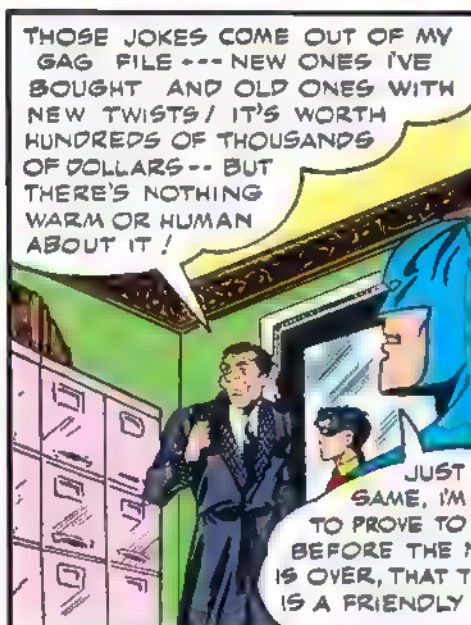
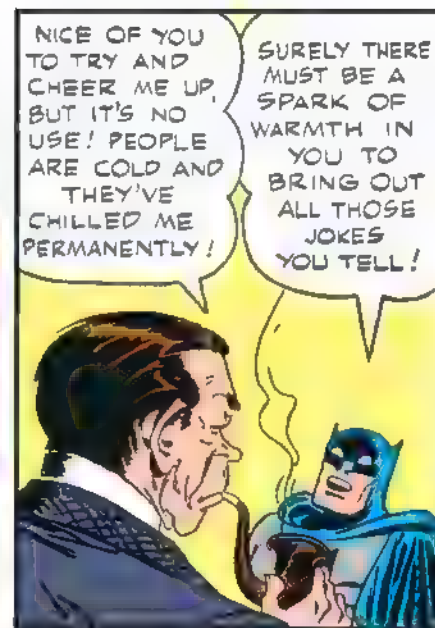
AND NOW MEET LINK CHESNEY, A PARADOX AMONG MEN... ONE WHOSE SHARP WIT MAKES MILLIONS ROAR WITH LAUGHTER, BUT WHO IS HIMSELF STEEPED IN GLOOM!

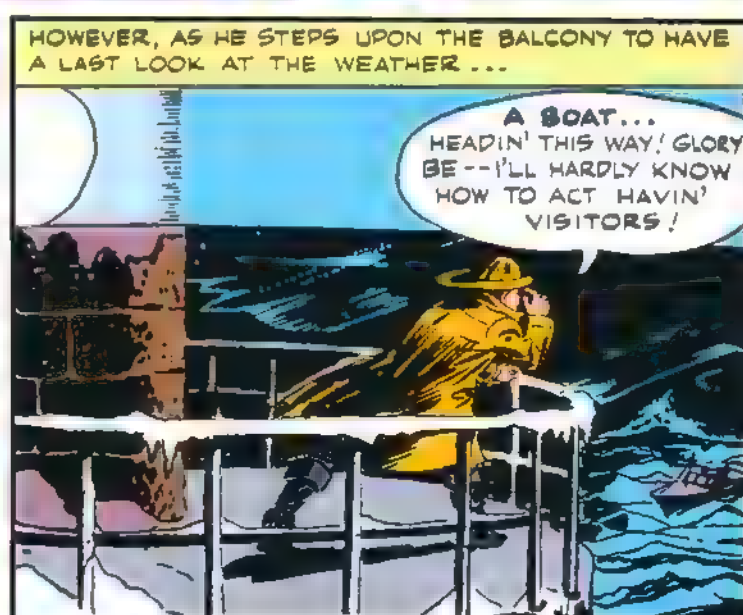
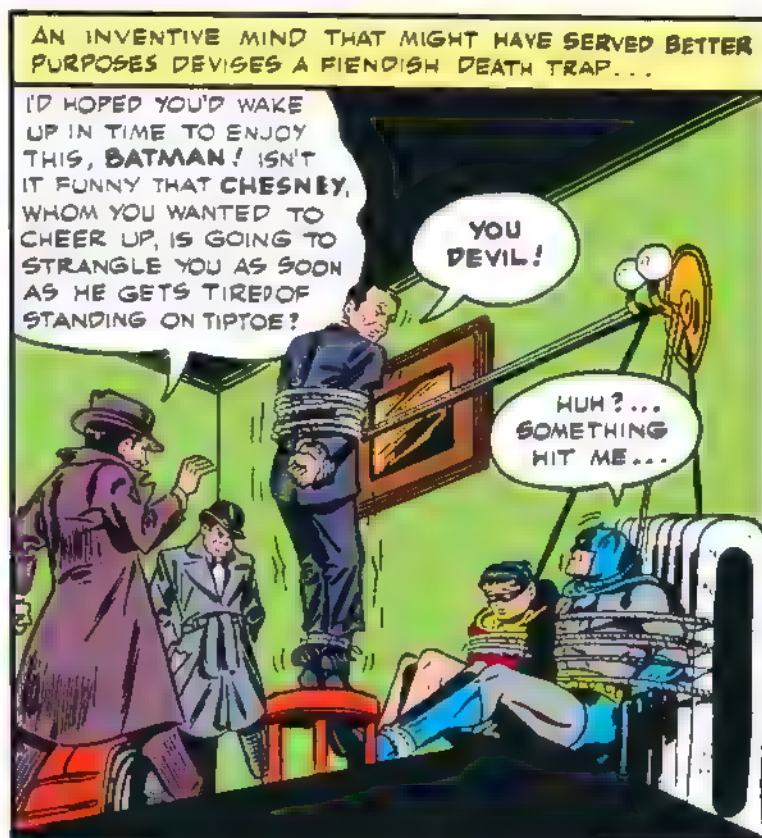
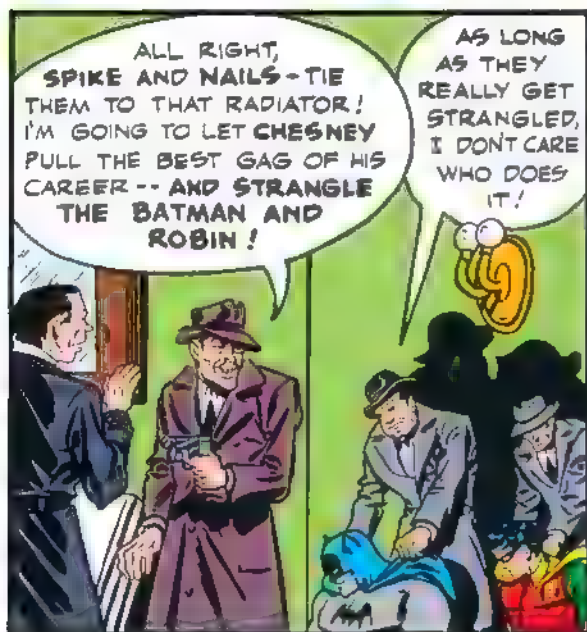
CHRISTMAS EVE -- BAH! I HATE THE SOUND OF IT!

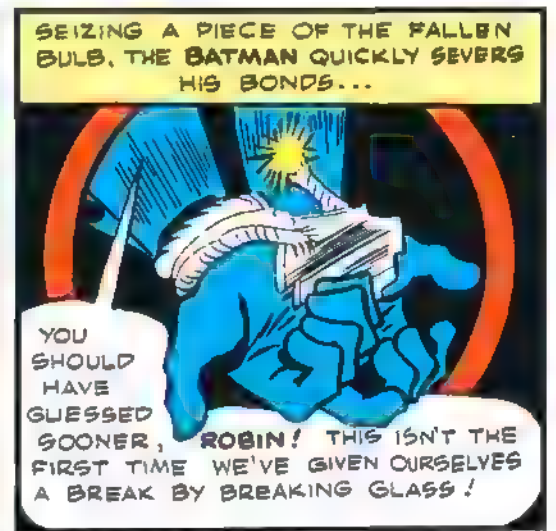
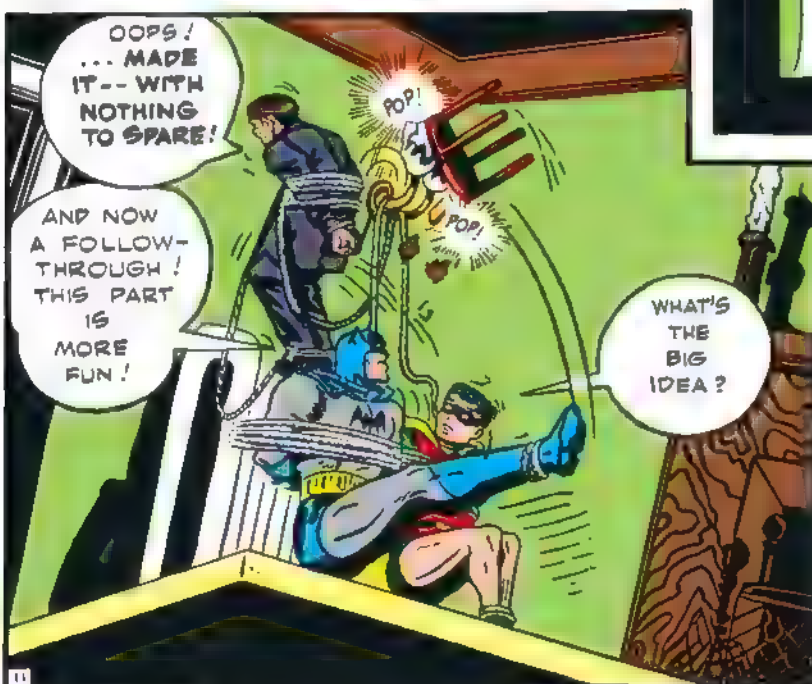
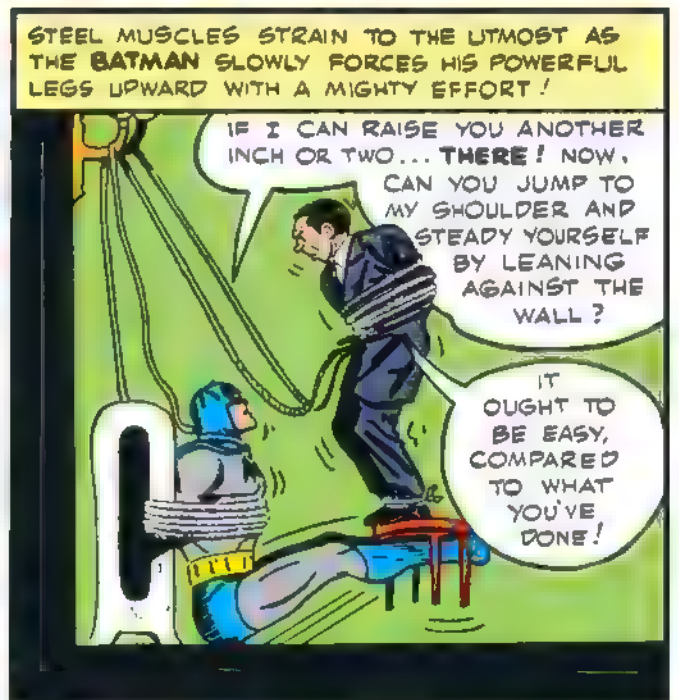
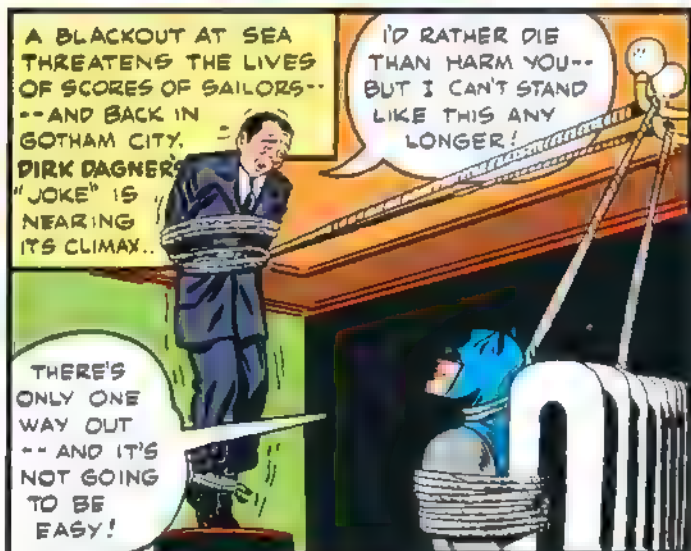


WHO SHOULD KNOW BETTER THAN I THE EMPTINESS OF IT? PEOPLE ROAR AT MY JOKES... BUT THE MINUTE MY BROADCASTS ARE OVER, THEY FORGET ME! LOOK AT ME TONIGHT-- THE LONELIEST MAN IN AMERICA!



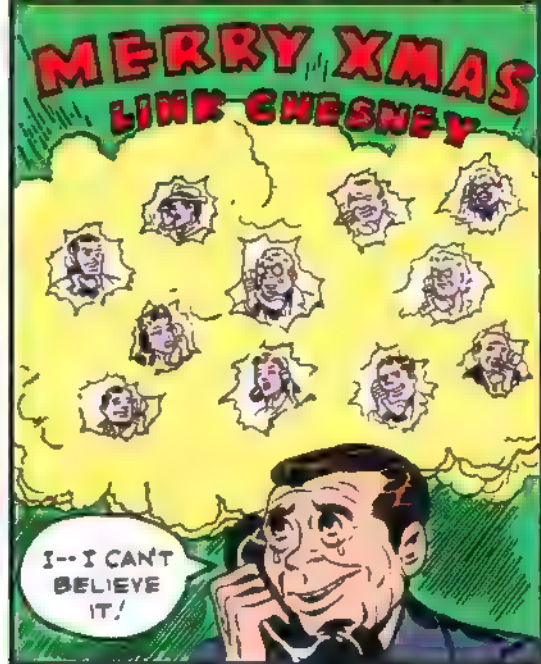




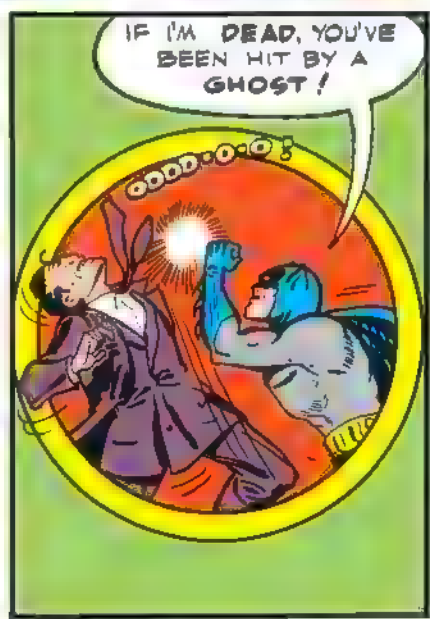
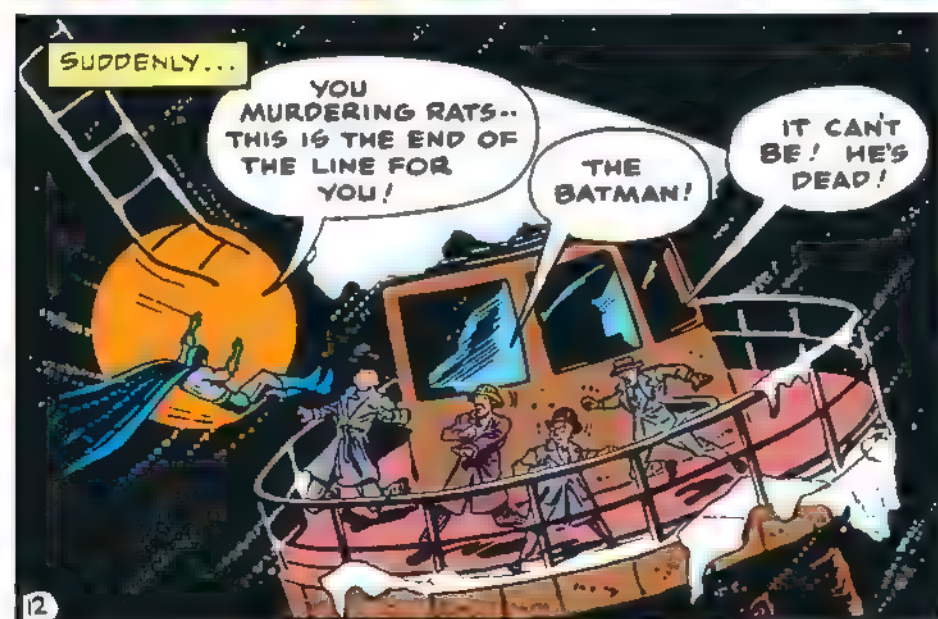
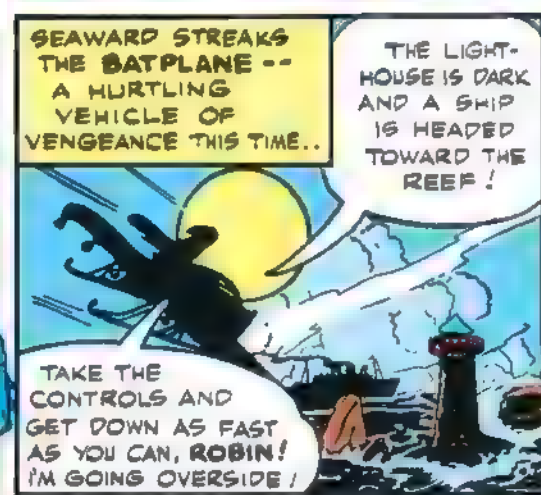


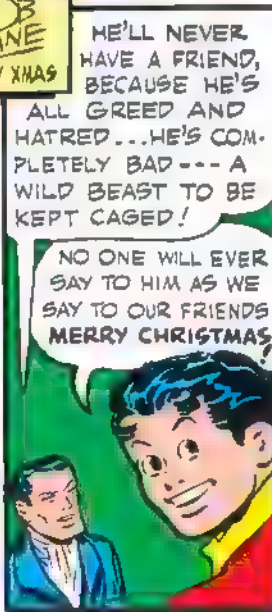
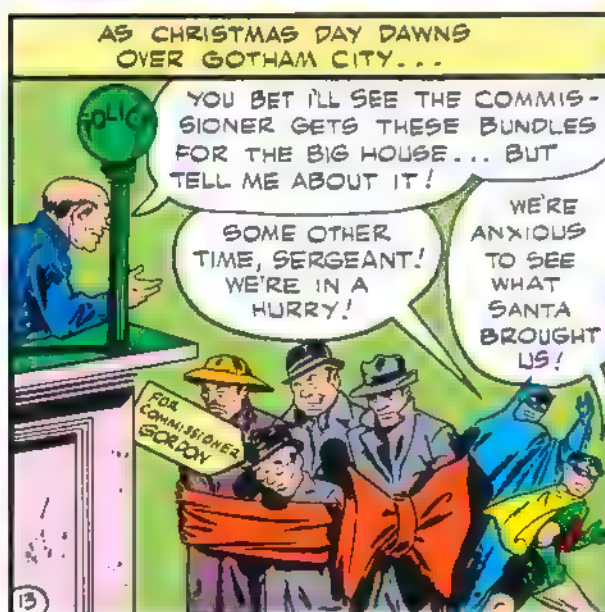
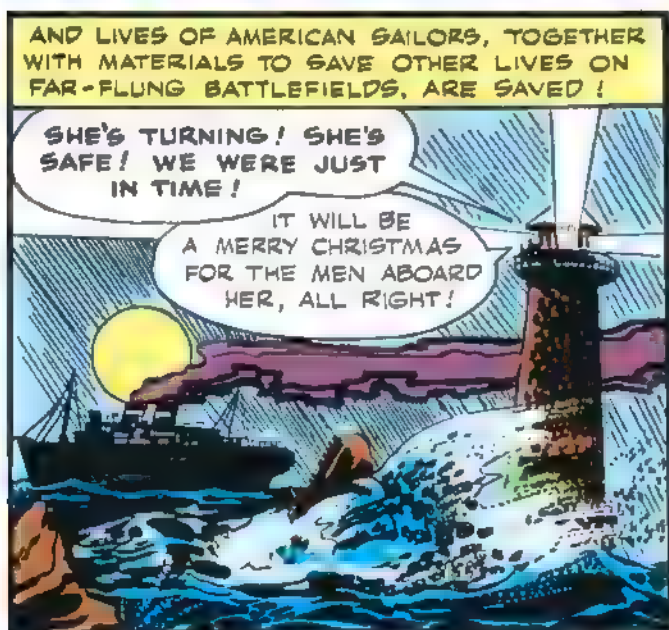
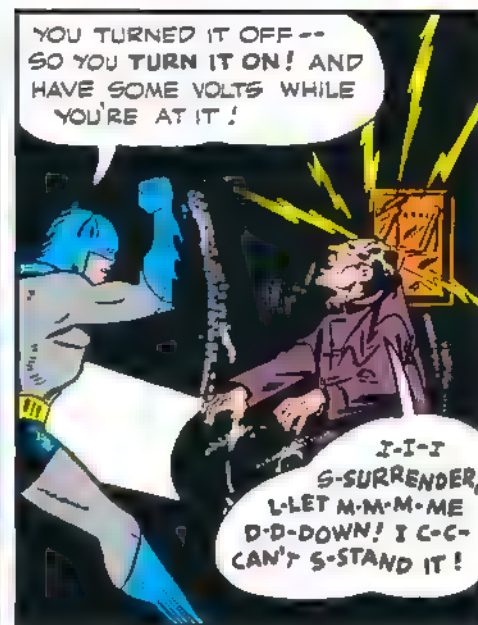
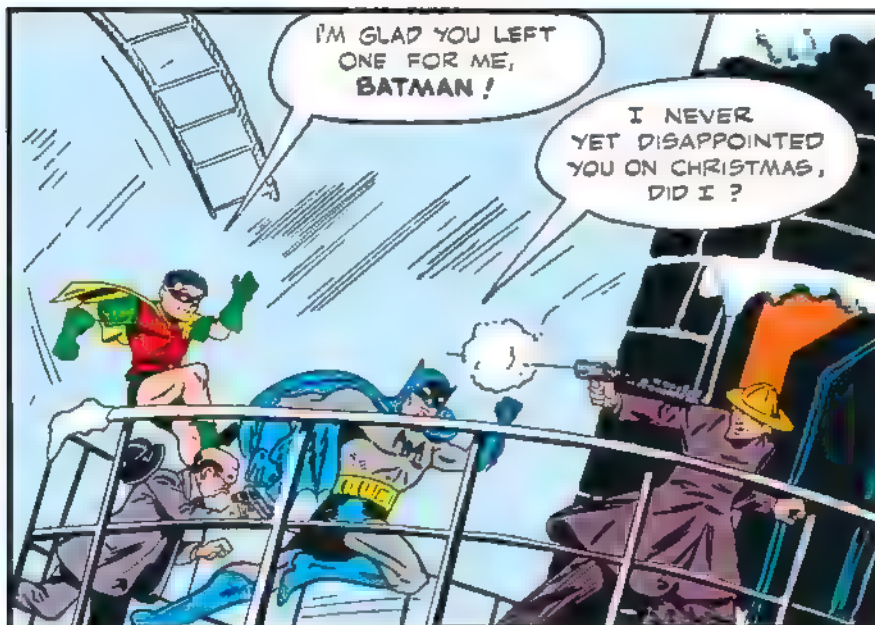


FOR THE FIRST TIME IN YEARS LINK CHESNEY'S FACE IS WREATHED IN A REAL SMILE AS HUNDREDS OF GAY VOICES CALL OUT TO HIM AT ONCE!



FANS OF MINE ALL OVER THE COUNTRY, PHONING IN ONE GREAT HOOK-UP! THEY DIDN'T FORGET!... BUT, OF COURSE, IT WAS YOUR DOING, BATMAN!







No. 73

BOY COMMANDOS
ALL THIS AND BATMAN TOO!



THE BATMAN

Detective

WEEKLY PUBLICATION

MARCH

COMES



BY POPULAR DEMAND
**"RETURN OF THE
SCARECROW"**
In A Brand-New Story

BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
THE BOY WONDER -

WHAT DO MEN FEAR MOST? THINGS THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND --- CUNNING TRICKS THAT SEEMINGLY DO NOT "MAKE SENSE" AND SO CANNOT BE WARDED OFF BY ORDINARY INTELLIGENCE! AND IN ALL THE WORLD NONE KNOWS THIS BETTER THAN THE **SCARECROW**, RENEGADE COLLEGE PROFESSOR AND AUTHORITY ON THE PSYCHOLOGY OF TERROR!

ONCE AGAIN, THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** MATCH WITS AND MUSCLES WITH THIS NIGHTMARE FIGURE OF BUR-LAP AND STRAW WHOM PRISON COULD NOT HOLD! FOLLOWING DE-CEPTIVELY CHILDISH CLUES, THEY FLASH ALONG PATHS OF PERIL TO BALK THE SCHEMES OF A WARPED GENIUS AS ---

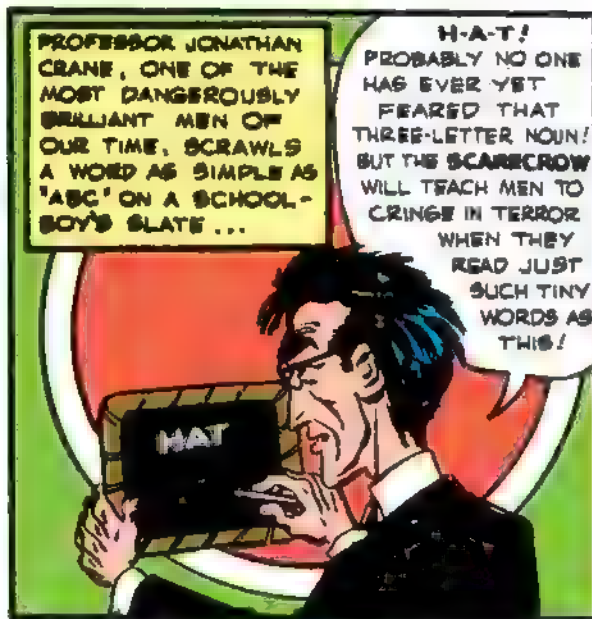
"THE SCARECROW RETURNS."



WAR BONDS AND STAMPS
FOR VICTORY

BOB
KANE





H-A-T! PROBABLY NO ONE HAS EVER YET FEARED THAT THREE-LETTER NOUN! BUT THE SCARECROW WILL TEACH MEN TO CRINGE IN TERROR WHEN THEY READ JUST SUCH TINY WORDS AS THIS!

AT THAT, THERE IS SOMETHING WEIRD ABOUT HATS--CERTAIN KINDS OF HATS--IN THE OPINION OF BRUCE WAYNE, SOCIETY PLAYBOY...

BUT, LINDA, YOU KNOW I THINK MOST WOMEN'S HATS ARE TERRIBLE!

THAT'S EXACTLY WHY I'M BRINGING YOU TO THIS HAT SHOW! YOU'VE MADE SO MUCH FUN OF MINE, I'M GOING TO LET YOU DO THE PICKING FOR A CHANGE!



HATS OF YESTERDAY

I WONDER IF THE NEW STYLES CAN POSSIBLY BE CRAZIER THAN WHAT THEY'RE ALREADY WEARING?

IF YOU THINK HATS OF TODAY ARE FREAKISH, LOOK AT THOSE ANTIQUES FROM THE MUSEUM!



HHMM-- REAL PEARLS AND PRECIOUS STONES! THEY'RE WORTH A FORTUNE!

AT THE PRICES MME. CHAPEAU IS ASKING, HERE'S OUGHT TO BE STUDDED WITH JEWELS!



AH-- THE INDUSTRIAL MOTIF!

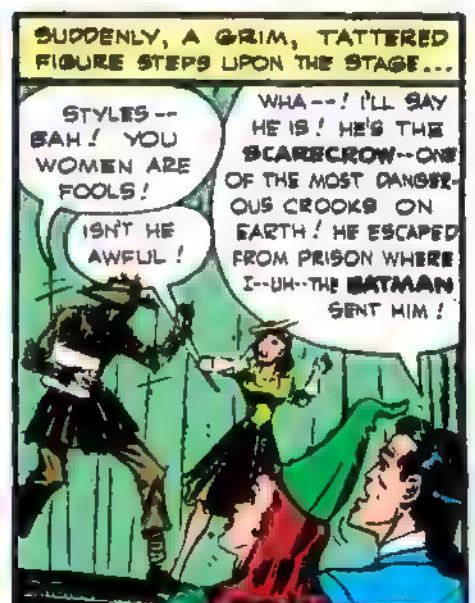
AREN'T THEY QUAIN?

THAT'S ONE WORD FOR IT!



SEE HOW THE WAR HAS INFLUENCED WOMEN'S STYLES?

NO WONDER THEY SAY CIVILIZATION IS IN DANGER!

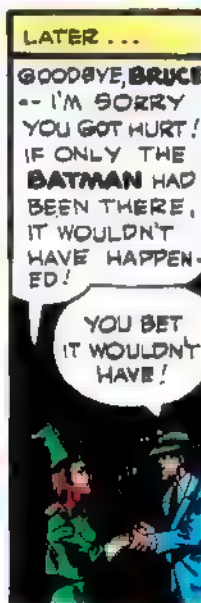
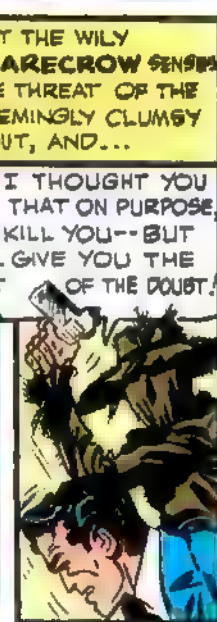
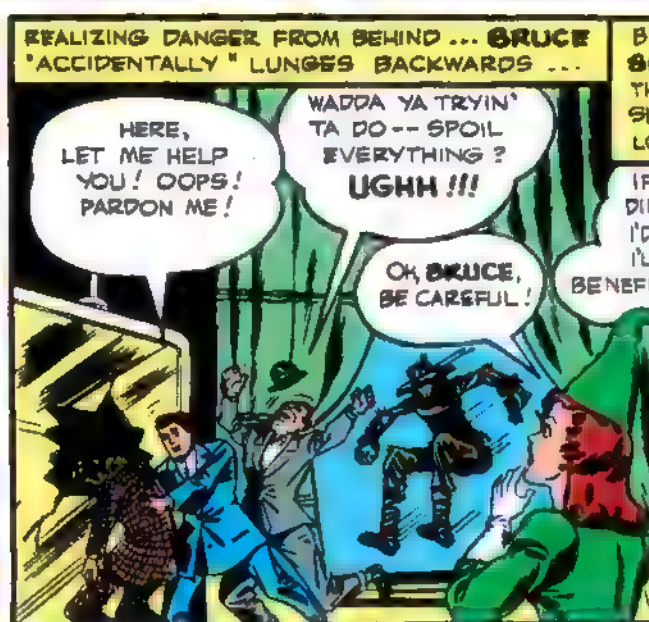
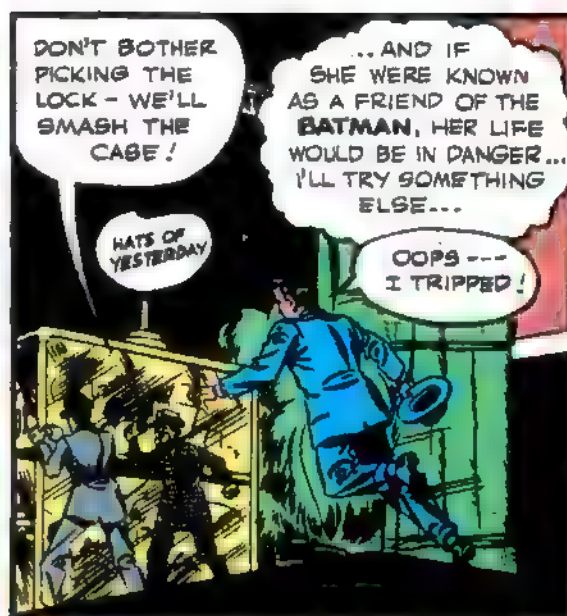
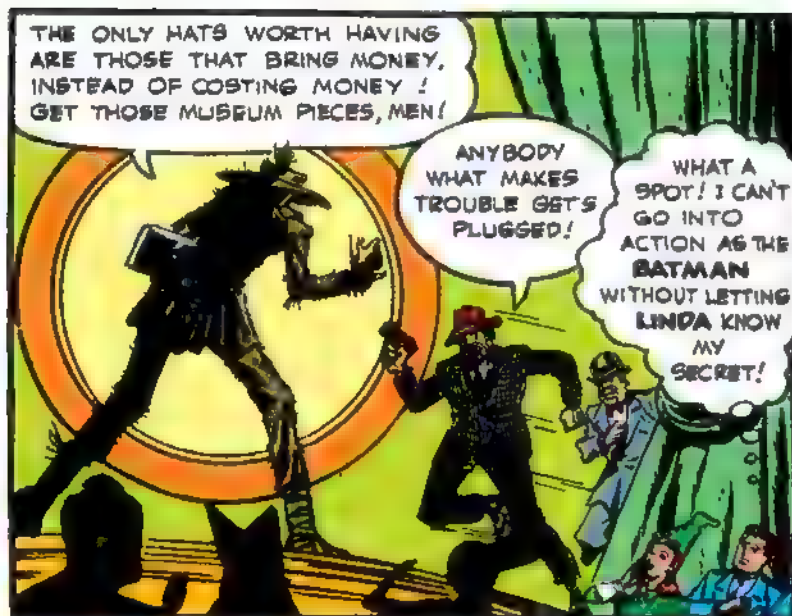


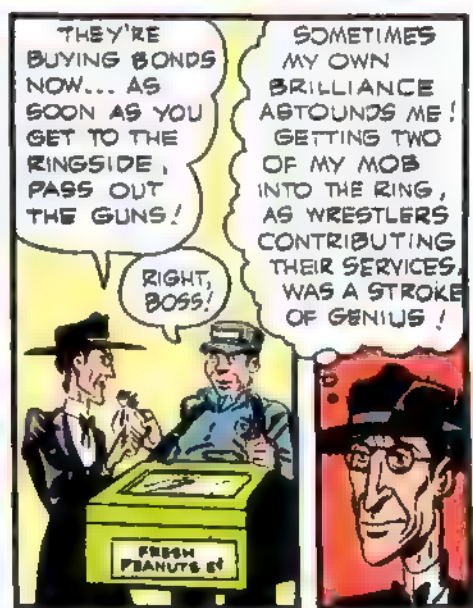
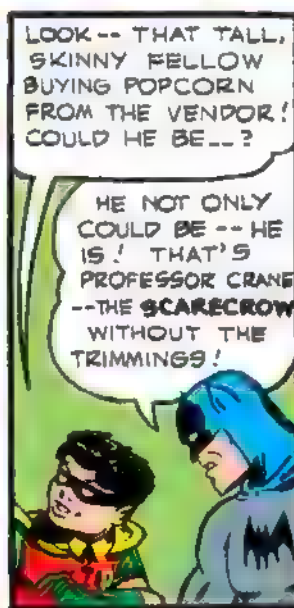
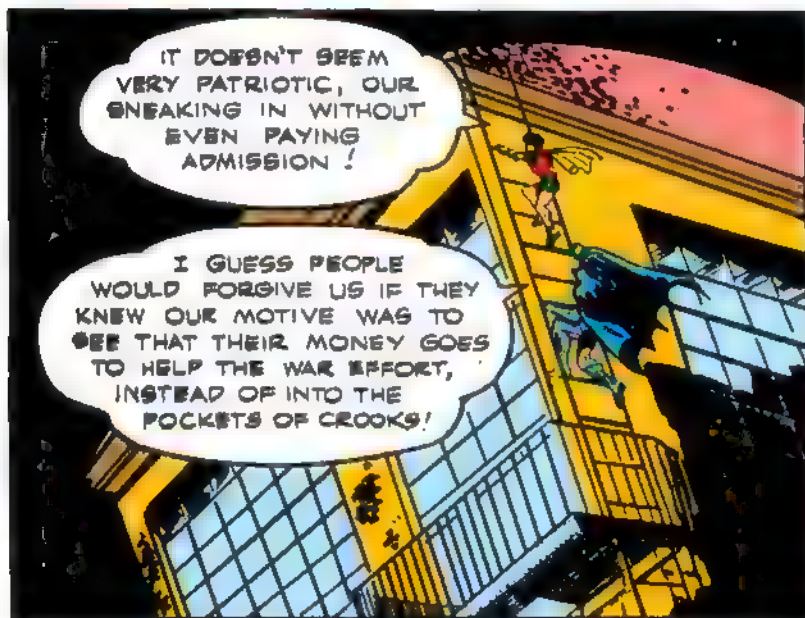
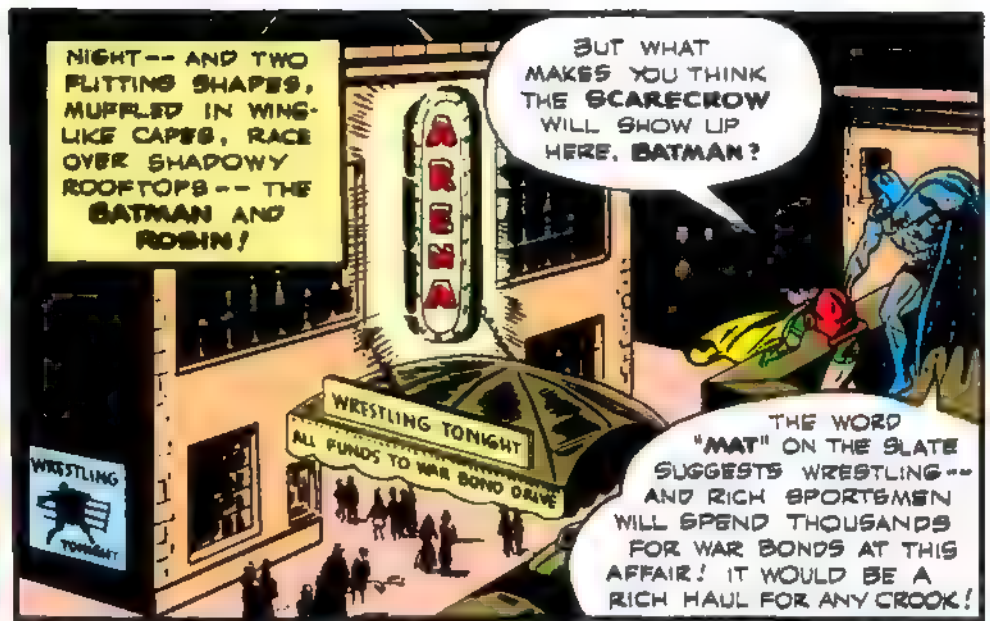
SUDDENLY, A GRIM, TATTERED FIGURE STEPS UPON THE STAGE...

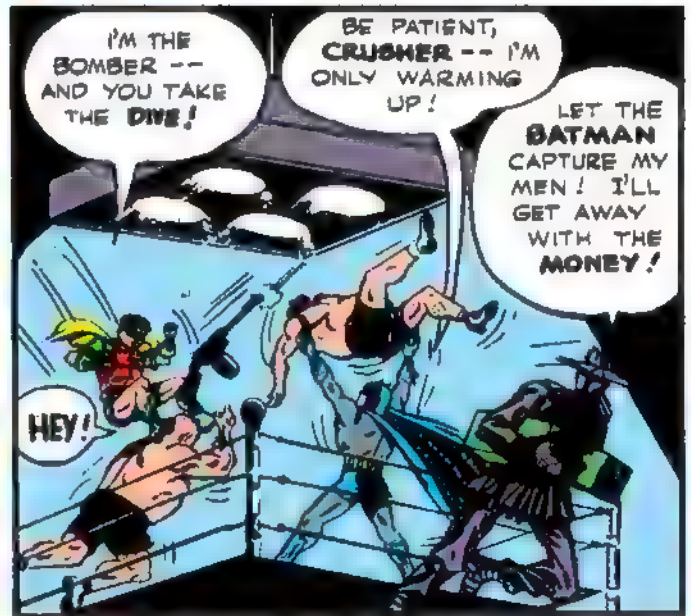
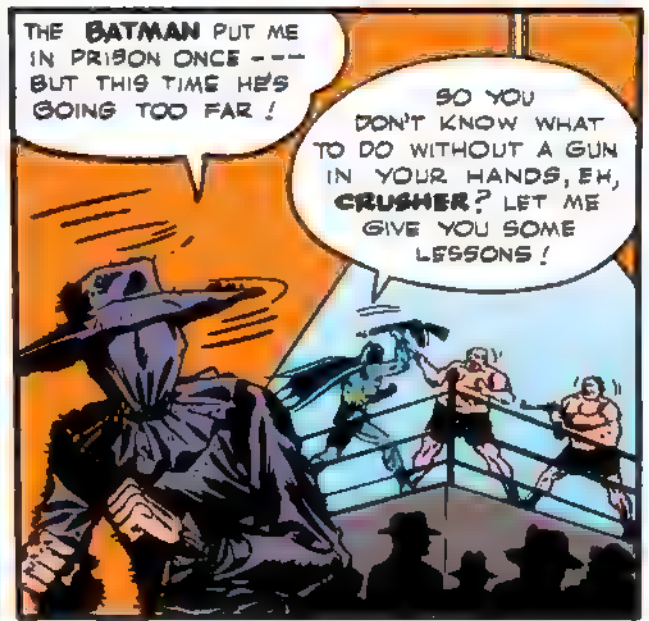
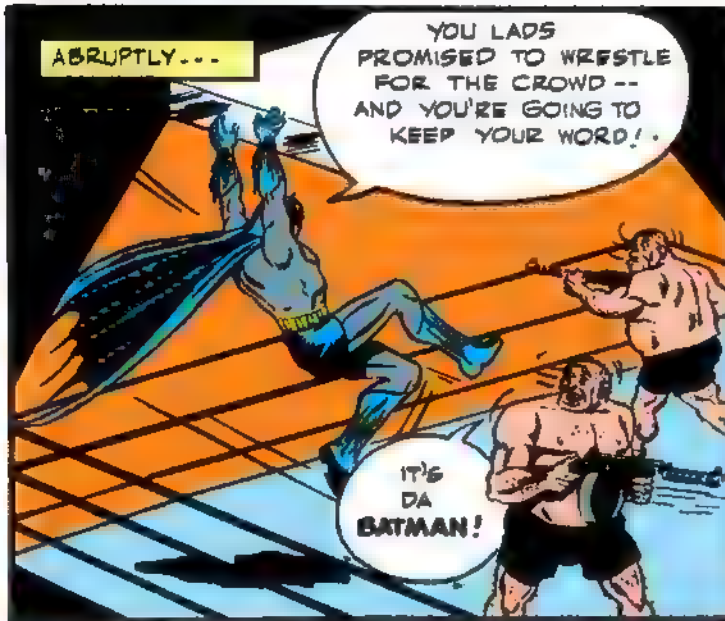
STYLES-- BAH! YOU WOMEN ARE FOOLS!

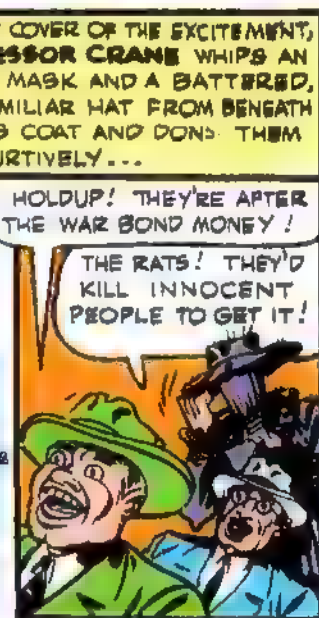
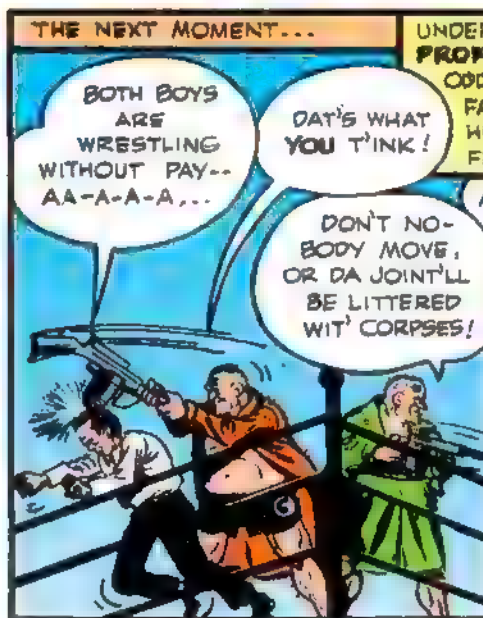
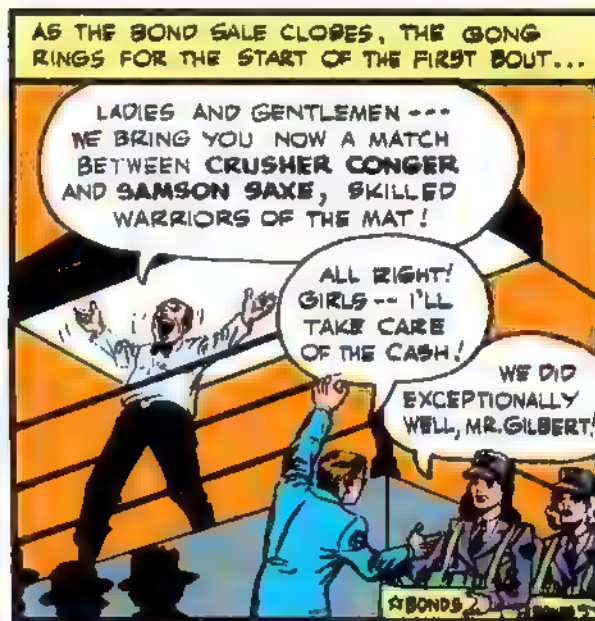
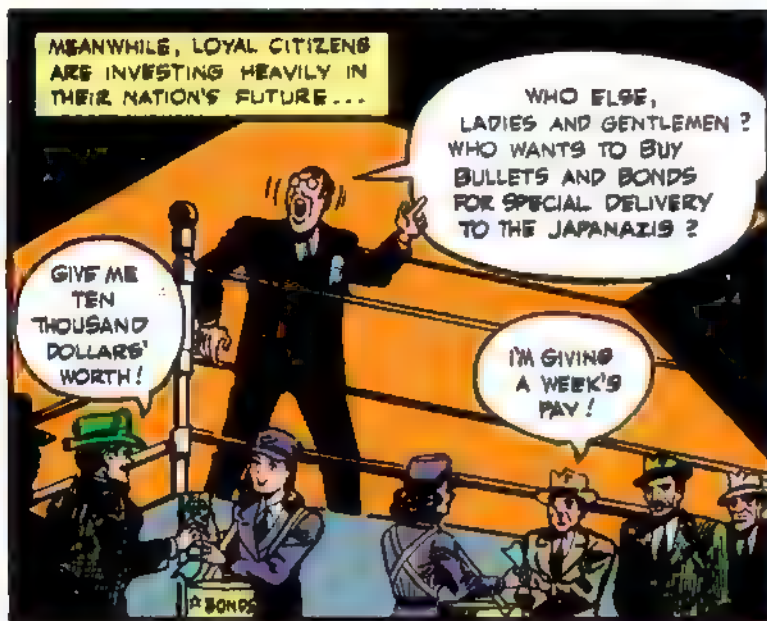
ISN'T HE AWFUL!

WHA--! I'LL SAY HE IS! HE'S THE SCARECROW--ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS CROOKS ON EARTH! HE ESCAPED FROM PRISON WHERE I--UH--THE BATMAN SENT HIM!



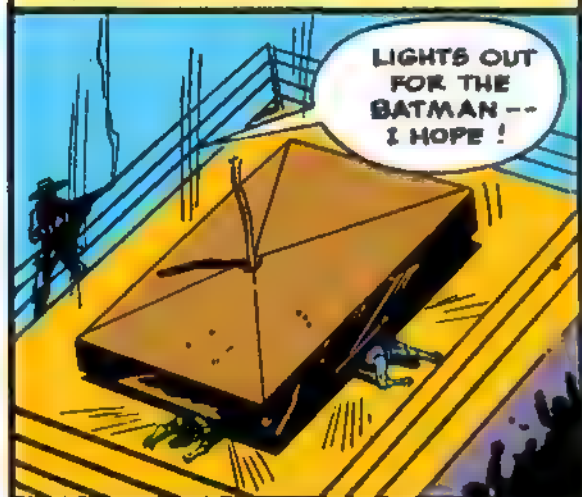








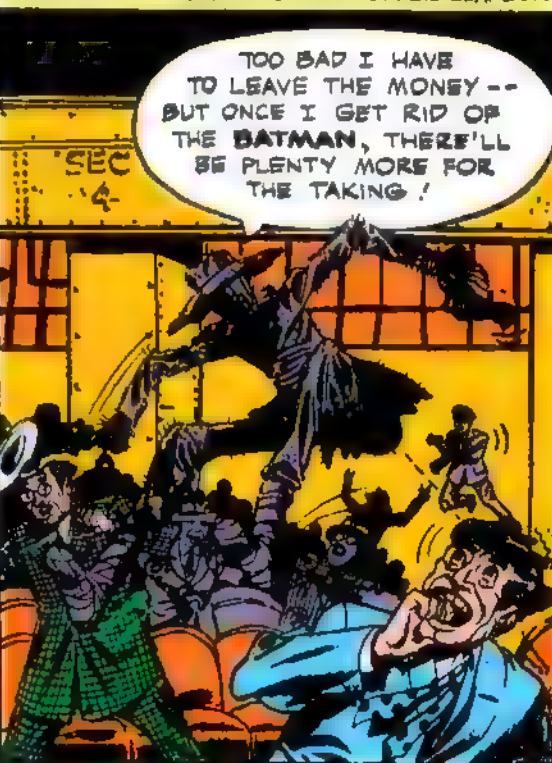
BUT BEFORE THE DYNAMIC DUO CAN MOVE, STEEL-JACKETED SLUGS SEVER THE CHAIN SUPPORTING THE BATTERY OF FLOODLAMPS -- AND ...



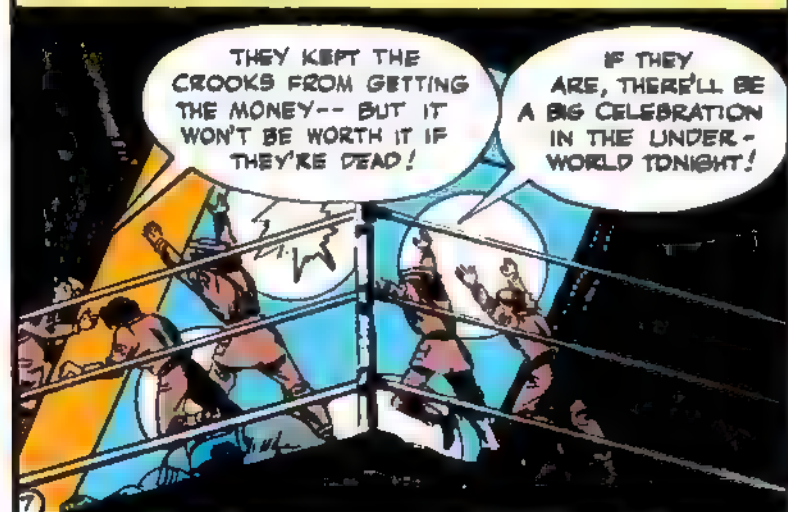
BUT KNOCKING HIM OUT ISN'T ENOUGH! I'LL HAVE TO KILL HIM BEFORE I CAN MAKE A SUCCESS OF MY CAMPAIGN OF TERROR! HAMMM... HOW CAN I TRAP HIM?



AS POLICE RESERVES CHARGE THROUGH THE EXCITED CROWD, THE SCARECROW FLEES WITH QUEER GRASSHOPPER LEAPS...



FRIENDLY HANDS LIFT THE MASS OF BROKEN GLASS AND TWISTED METAL FROM THE STILL FORMS OF THE FAMOUS HEROES ...



AND UNDER THE MINISTRATIONS OF A DOCTOR ...



FALED, NOTHING! BESIDES SAVING THE CASH, YOU TREATED THIS CROWD TO THE BEST FIGHT THEY'VE EVER SEEN! IS ANYTHING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT?

THE SCARECROW IS MORE IMPORTANT! UNLESS HE'S PUT AWAY FOR GOOD, HE'LL TERRORIZE THE WHOLE CITY!

I FOUND THIS SLATE WITH SOME SILLY STUFF ON IT BY THE RINGSIDE!

"HAT"--"MAT"-- AND NEXT IS "VAT"... THAT'S GOING TO BE A TOUGH ONE TO FIGURE OUT!

MAYBE THIS CARD STUCK IN THE FRAME OF THE SLATE WILL THROW SOME LIGHT ON THE SUBJECT!

JUST AN AD-VERTISEMENT FOR THE VORTEX CLEANERS & DYERS AT 13 HOOKE STREET-- AND AN OLD ONE, AT THAT!

DOESN'T MEAN A THING! PROBABLY SOME CARD THAT WAS KICKING AROUND AND GOT CAUGHT ACCIDENTALLY!

BUT THE SUBTLEST CLUE IS ENOUGH FOR THE BATMAN, ACE CRIMINOLOGIST--AND PRESENTLY...

DYERS USE VATS....IT'S SO PLAIN, THE SCARECROW MIGHT HAVE INTENDED IT AS A TRAP-- BUT I'D HATE TO PASS UP THE CHANCE OF TANGLING WITH HIM AGAIN!

THAT HIGH WINDOW BY THE DRAINPIPE.... EVEN IF THEY'RE EXPECTING US, THEY WOULDN'T THINK WE'D PICK THAT AS AN ENTRANCE!

THERE THEY ARE-- WATCHING THE DOOR WITH GUNS READY!

LET'S NOT KEEP THEM IN SUSPENSE!

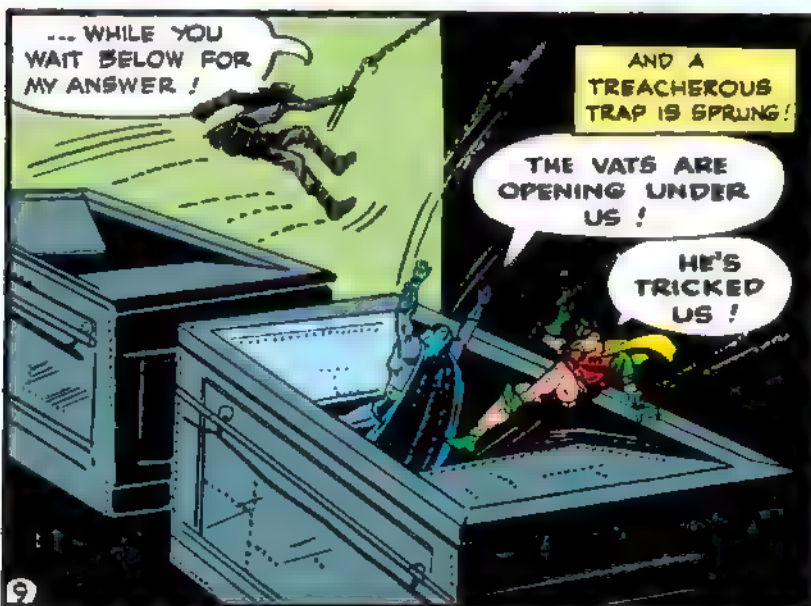
WITHIN THE GLOOMY STRUCTURE...

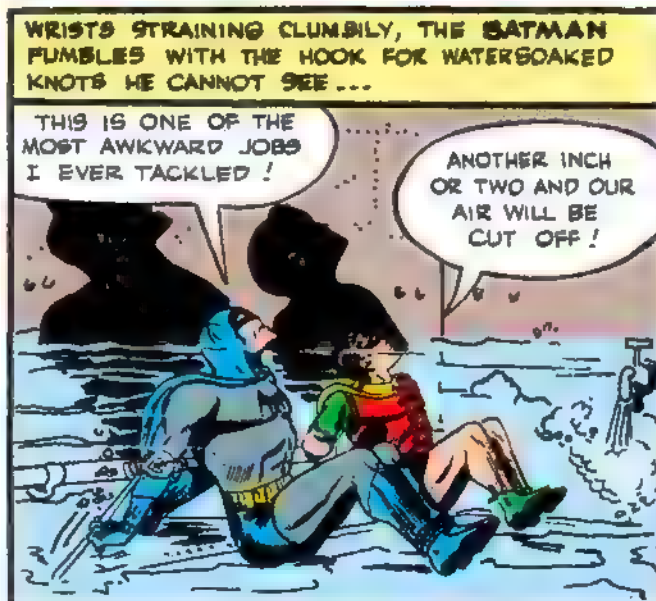
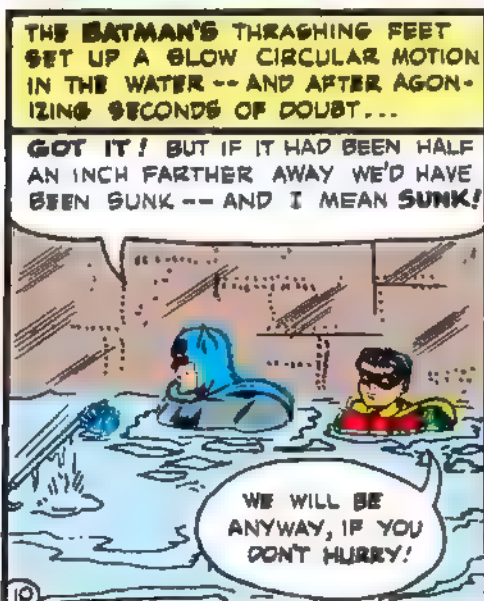
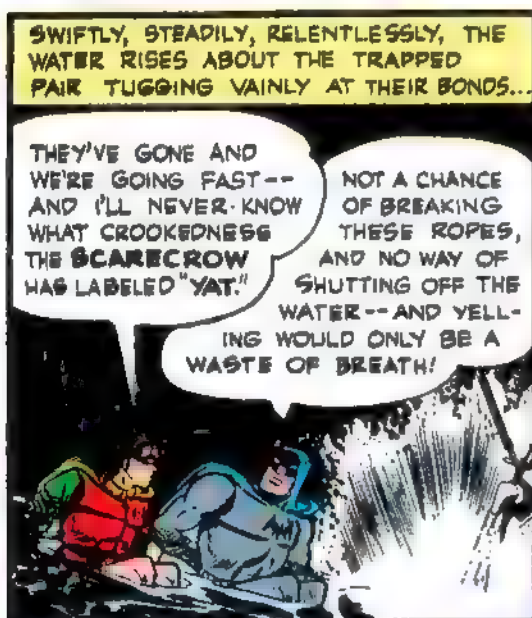
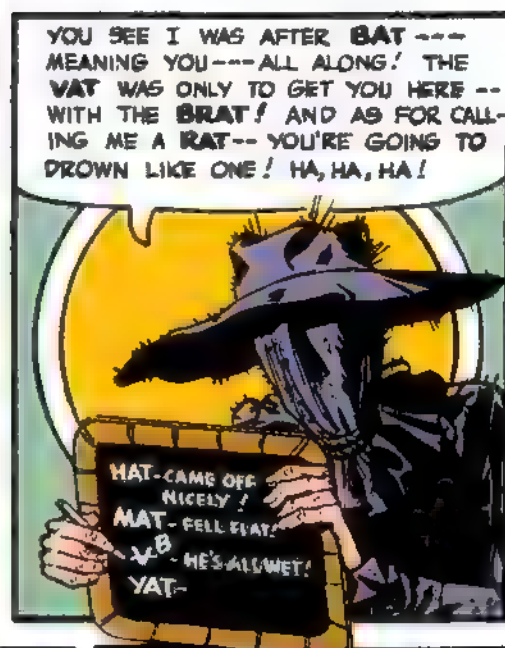
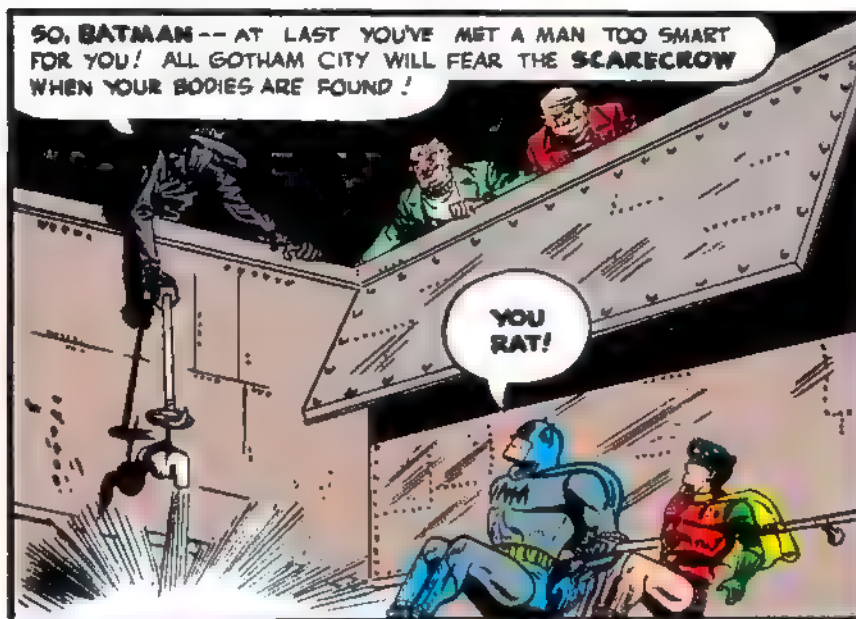
CHEE, SCARECROW-- DIS JOINT GIVES ME DA CREEPS! I FEEL LIKE SOMEONE WAS SNEAKIN' UP ON ME!

A COMMON PSYCHOLOGICAL PHENOMENON WHEN ONE HAS REASON TO BE FRIGHTENED OF ANYONE, MUGGSY!

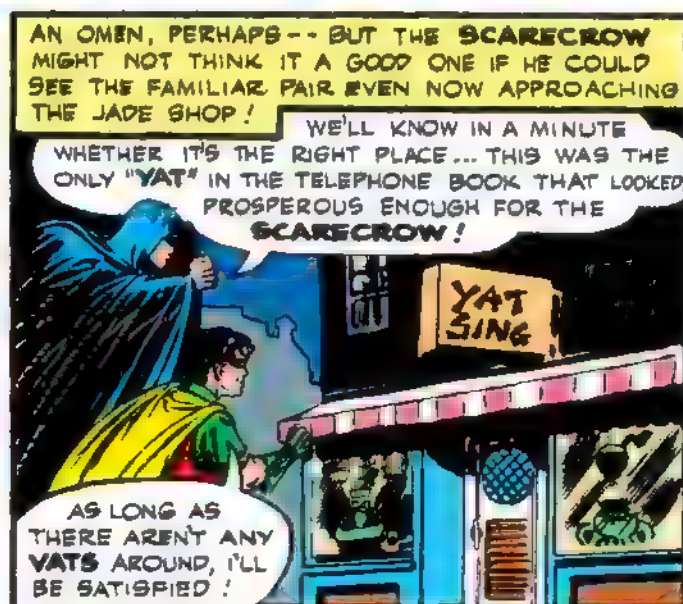
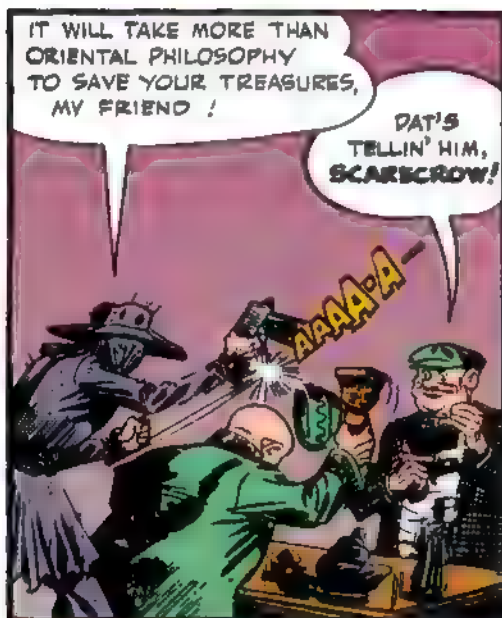
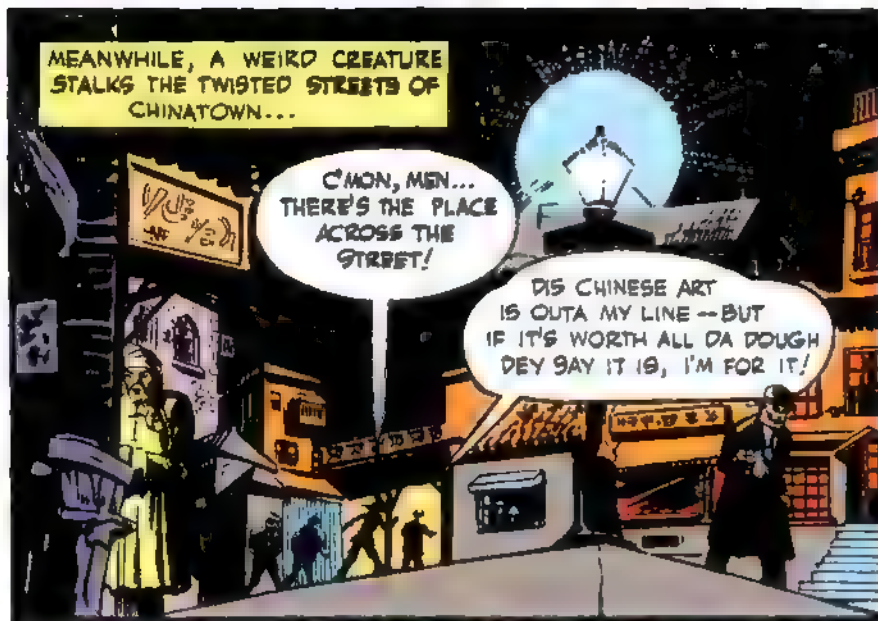
NOW, IF I WERE NERVOUS, I MIGHT IMAGINE THAT INSTEAD OF WAITING HERE TO KILL THE BATMAN, THE BATMAN WAS CREEPING UP TO ATTACK ME!

WHAT AN AWFUL THOUGHT!

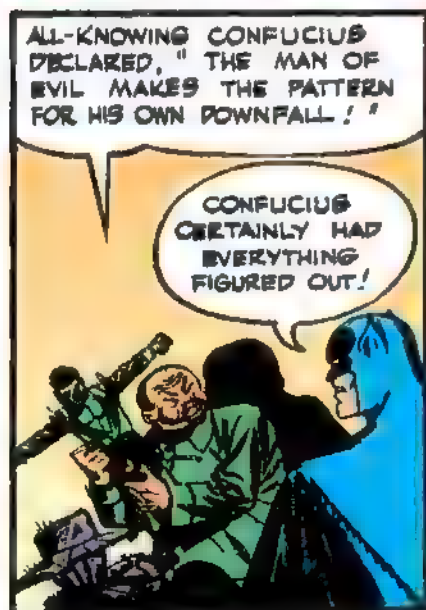
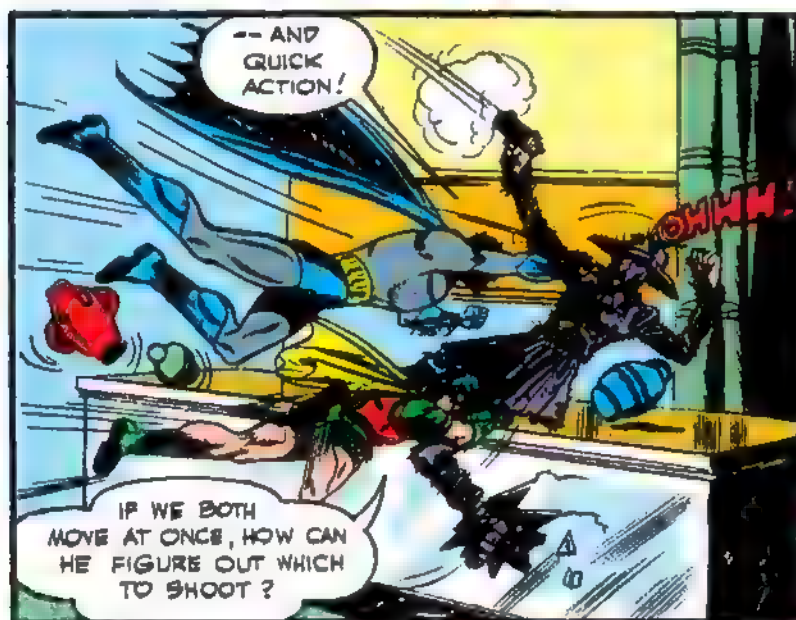
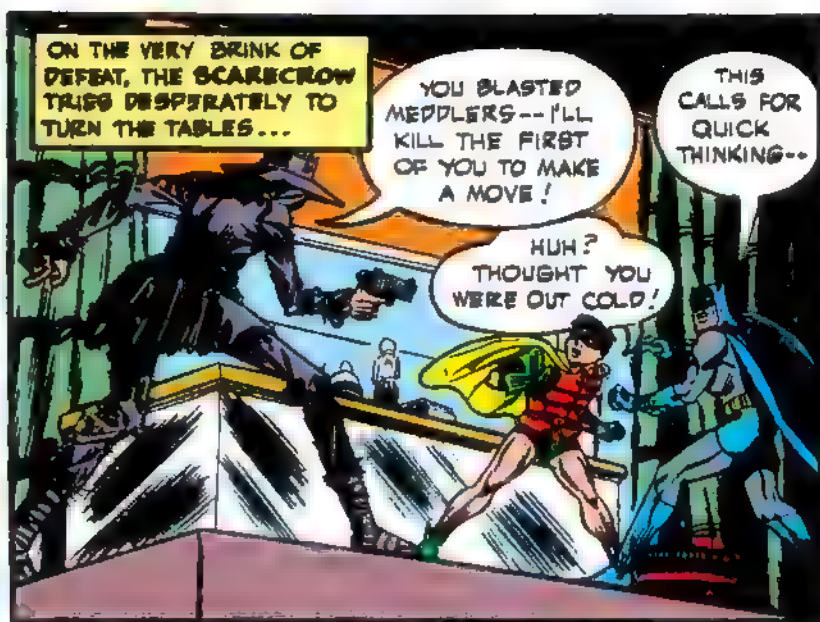




WILL THE DAREDEVIL DUO ESCAPE IN TIME OR WILL THE DIABOLIC PLOT OF THE SCHEMING SCARECROW WRITE "FINIS" TO THEIR DRAMATIC CAREER OF CRIME - FIGHTING?...







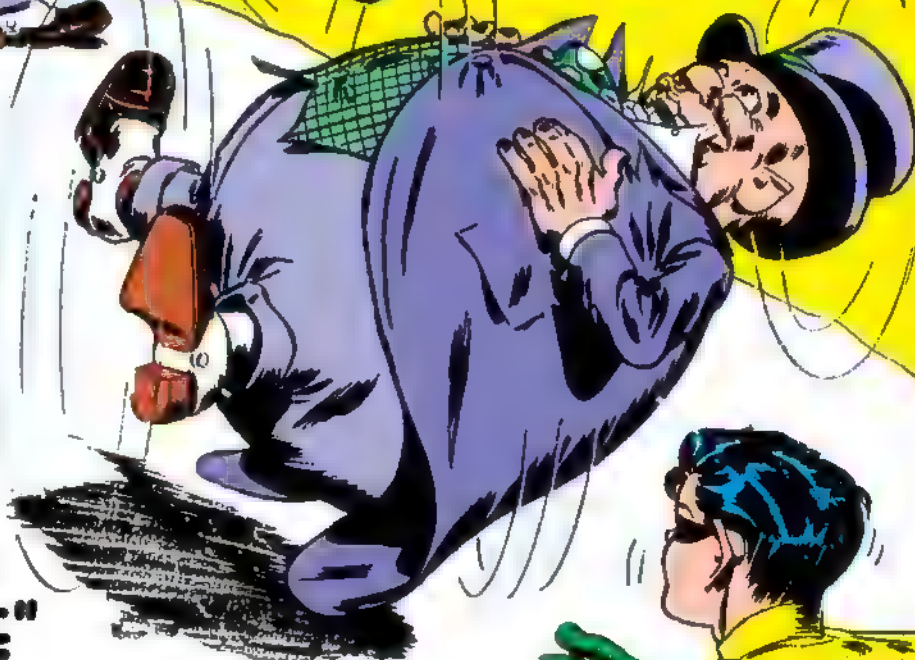
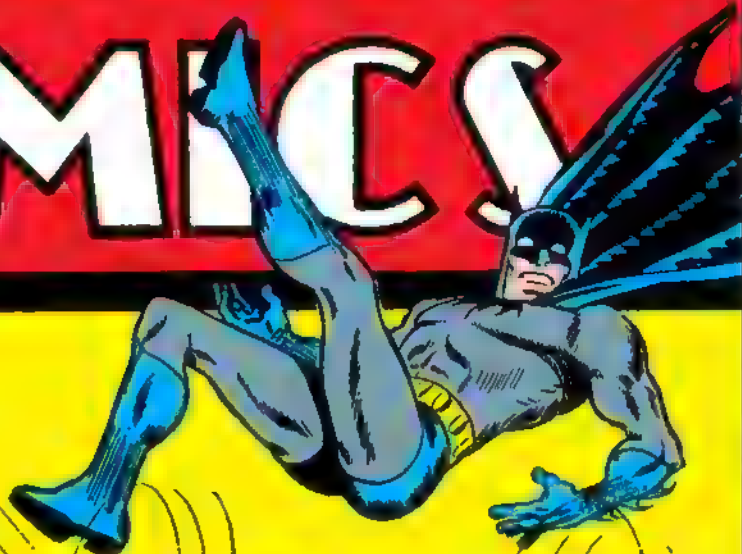
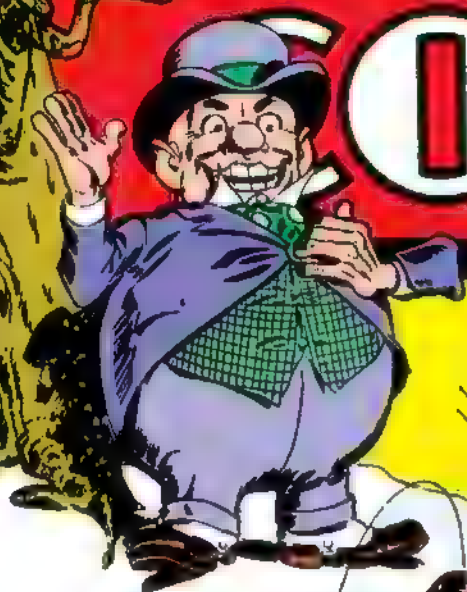


No. 74

ADDED ATTRACTION!
BOY COMMANDOS



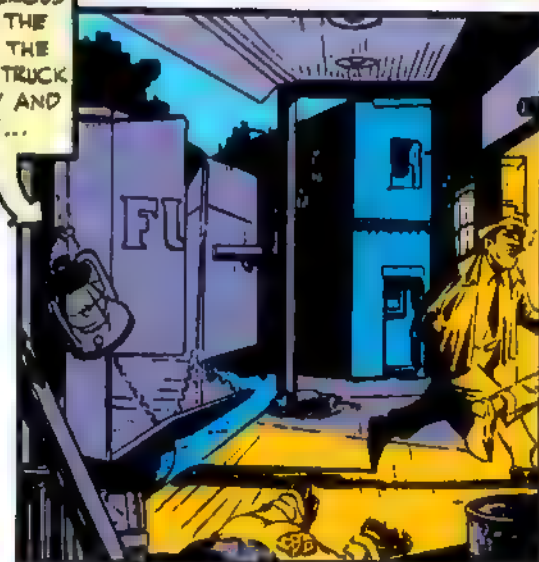
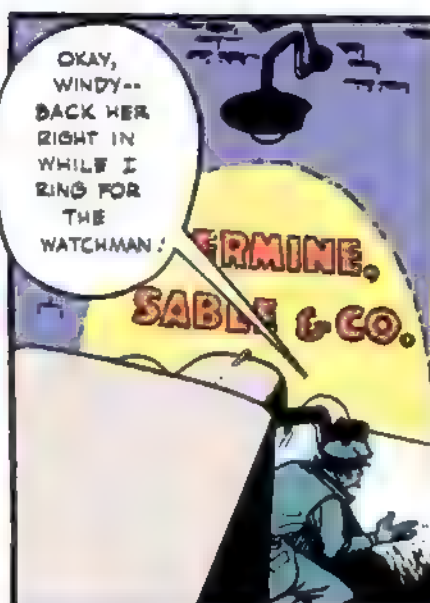
Detective COMICS



**BATMAN
AND ROBIN**

ENCOUNTER
DOUBLE TROUBLE
WHEN THEY
WRESTLE WITH
THOSE FANTASTIC
ROTUND ROGUES

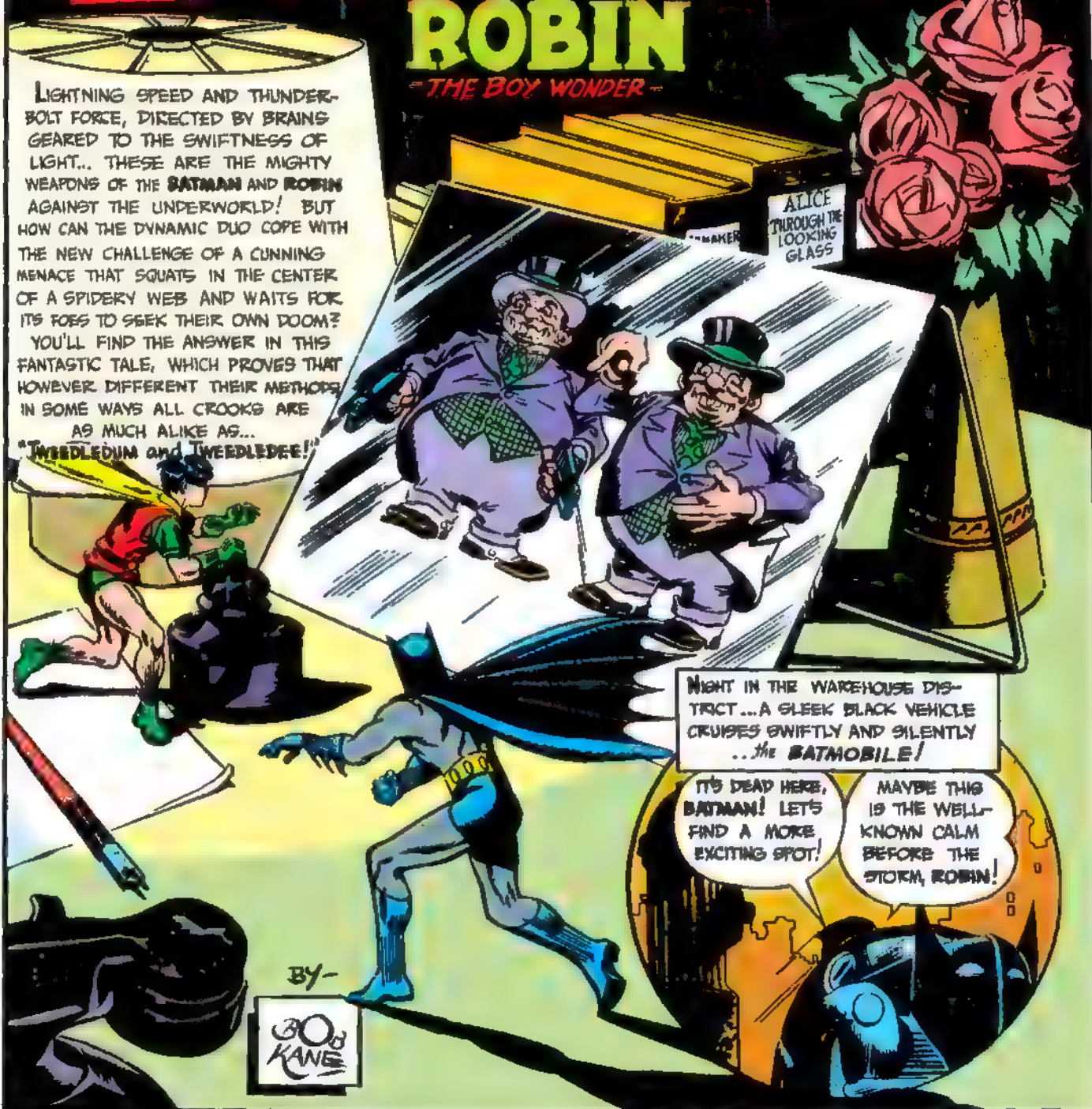
**"TWEEDLEDUM
and TWEEDLEDEE"
!**

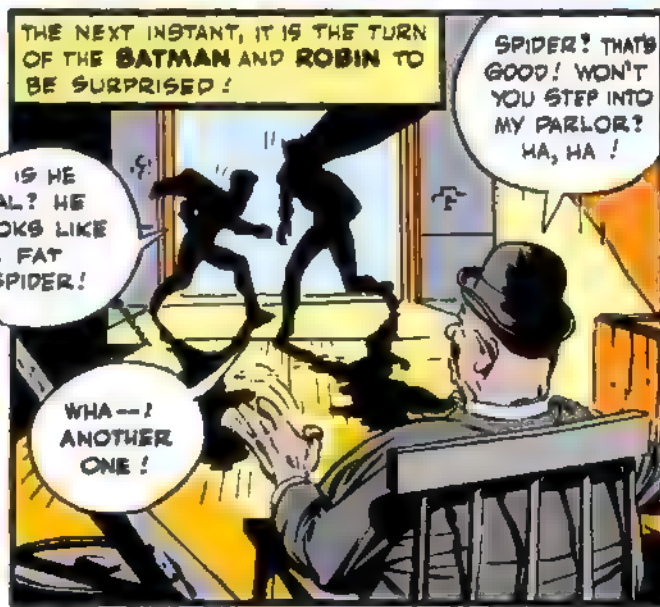
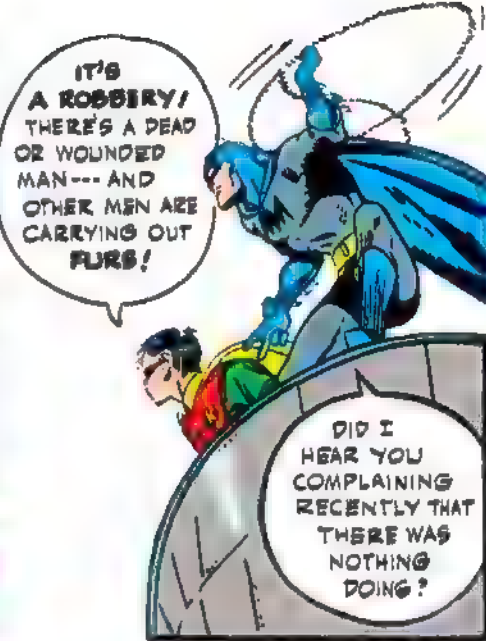
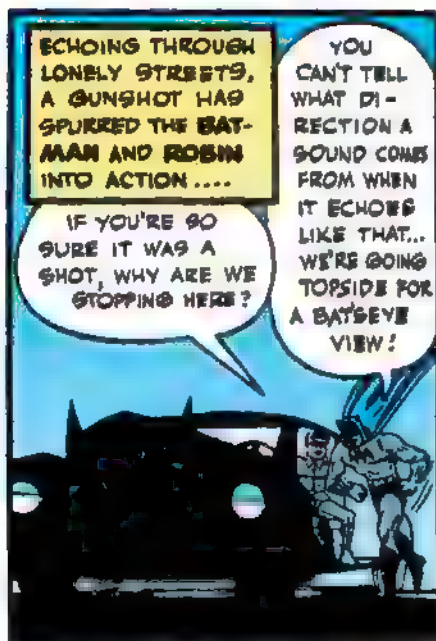


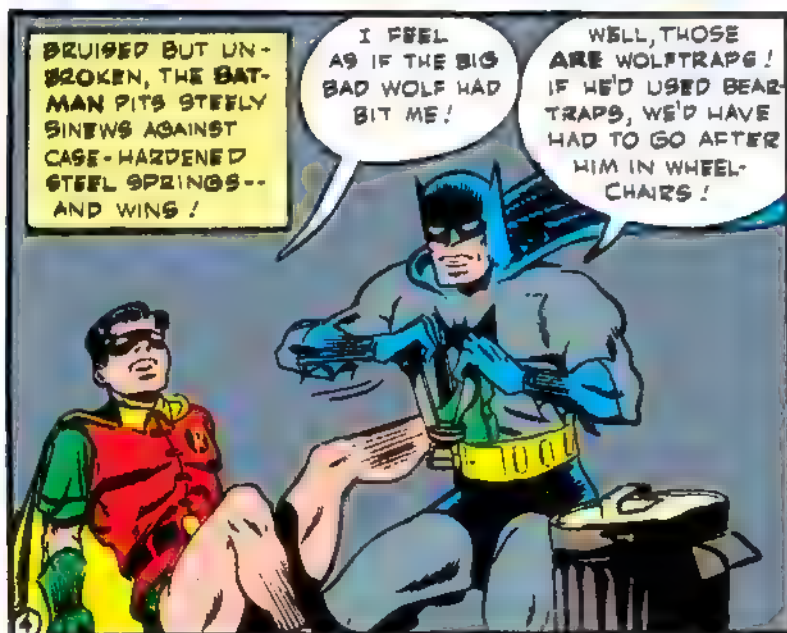
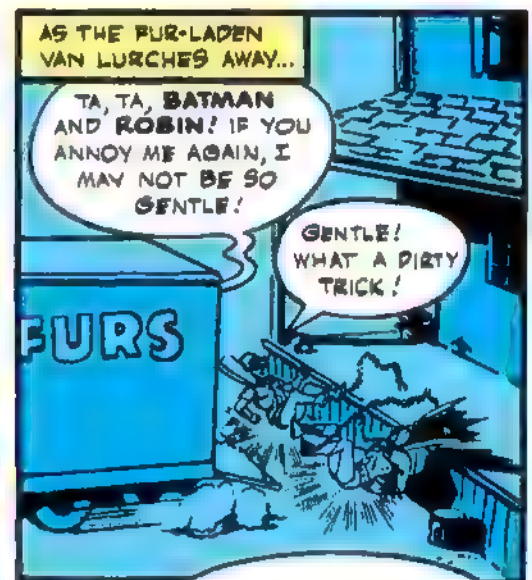
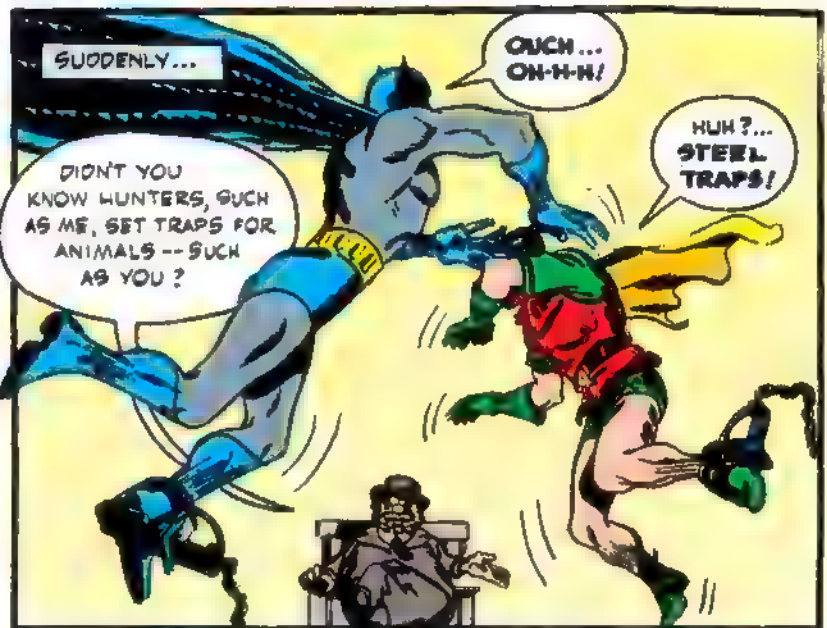
BATMAN

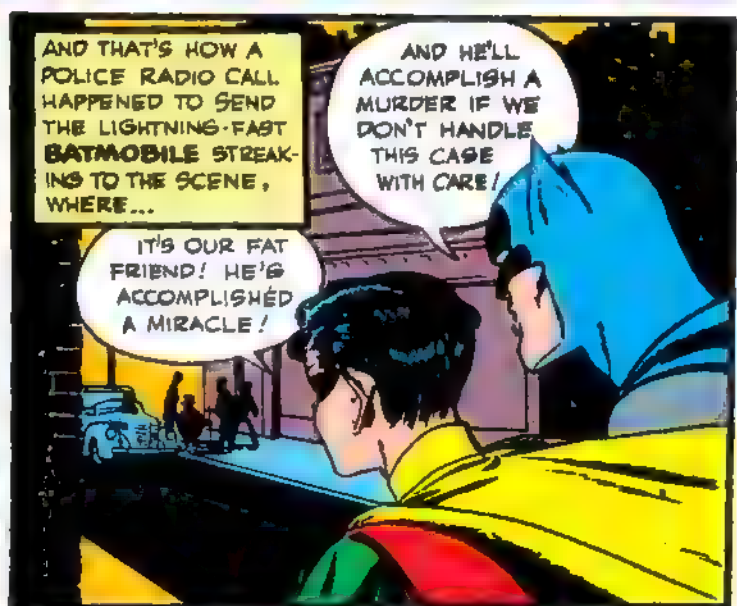
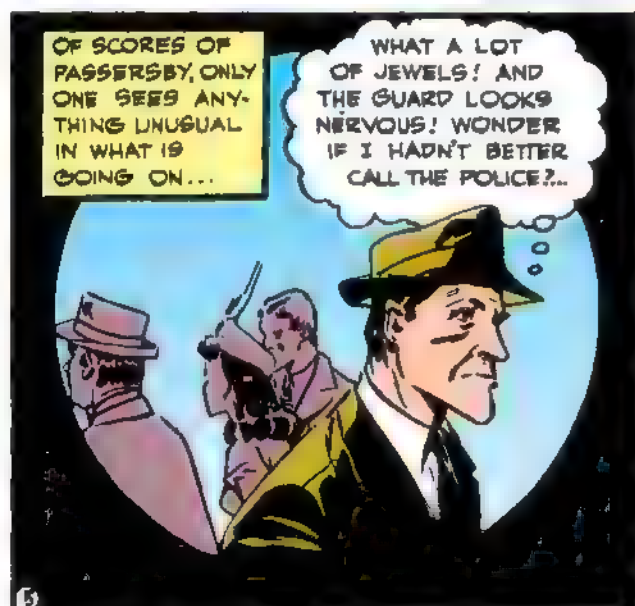
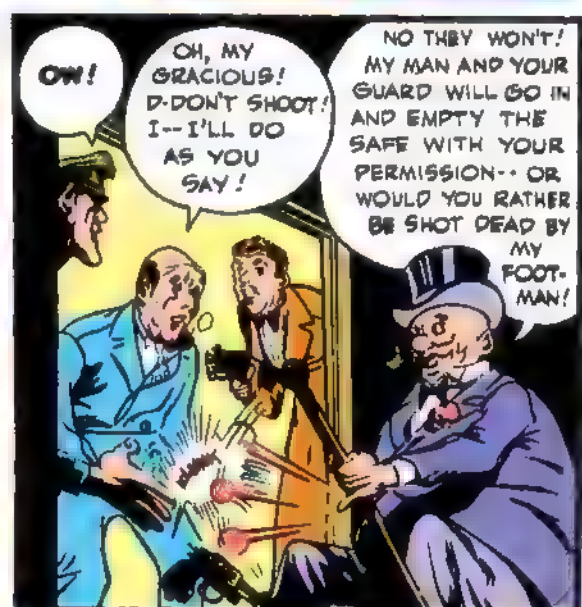
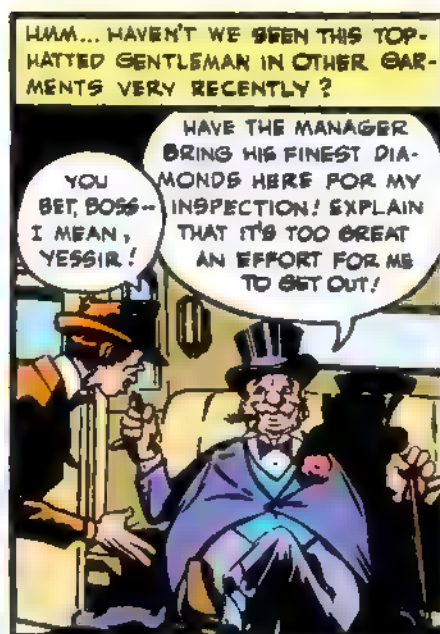
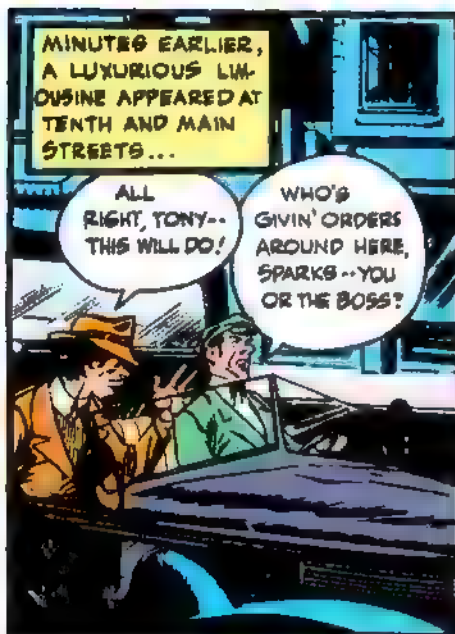
WITH
ROBIN
—THE BOY WONDER—

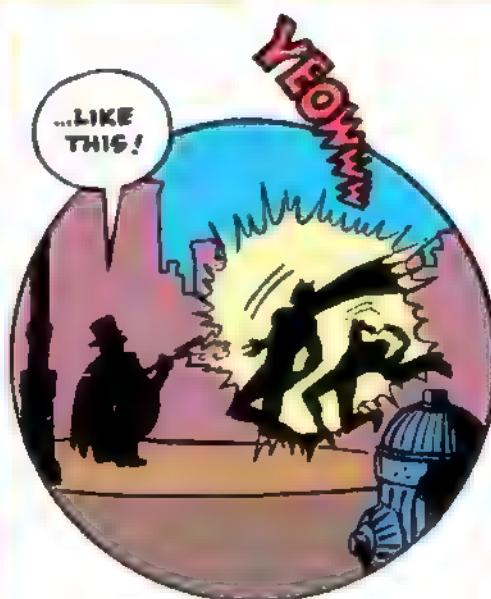
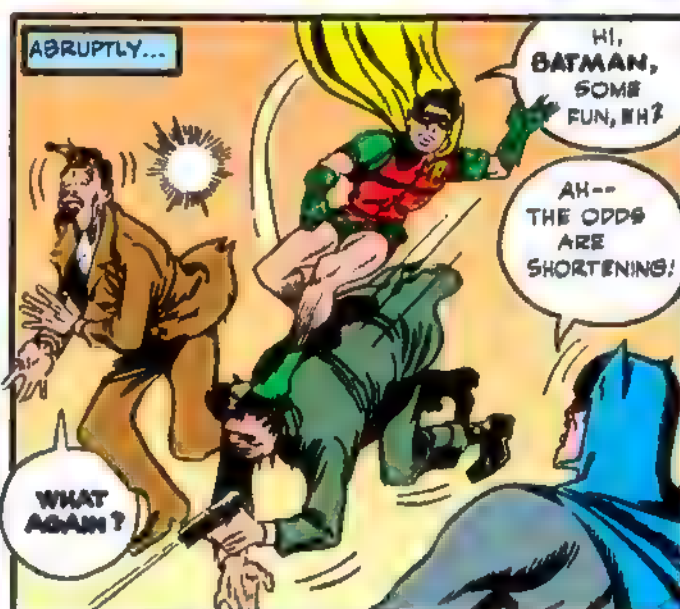
LIGHTNING SPEED AND THUNDER-BOLT FORCE, DIRECTED BY BRAINS GEARED TO THE SWIFTNESS OF LIGHT... THESE ARE THE MIGHTY WEAPONS OF THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN** AGAINST THE UNDERWORLD! BUT HOW CAN THE DYNAMIC DUO COPE WITH THE NEW CHALLENGE OF A CUNNING MENACE THAT SQUATS IN THE CENTER OF A SPIDERY WEB AND WAITS FOR ITS FOES TO SEEK THEIR OWN DOOM? YOU'LL FIND THE ANSWER IN THIS FANTASTIC TALE, WHICH PROVES THAT HOWEVER DIFFERENT THEIR METHODS, IN SOME WAYS ALL CROOKS ARE AS MUCH ALIKE AS...
"TWEEDLEDM and TWEEDLEEE!"











THE FOLLOWING DAY, IN THE HOME OF BRUCE WAYNE, WEALTHY MAN - ABOUT-TOWN, AND HIS YOUNG WARD, DICK GRAYSON...



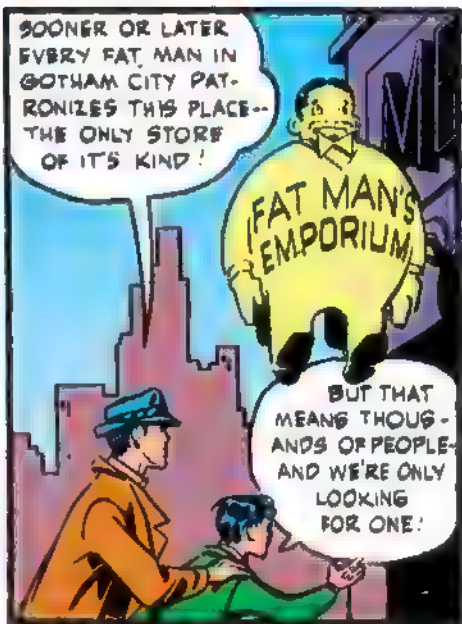
I OUGHT TO BE UPSET BECAUSE THAT OVERSTUFFED RODENT MADE US LOOK SILLY TWICE IN HALF AN HOUR-- BUT WHAT REALLY WORRIES ME IS HOW HE MANAGED TO BE IN TWO PLACES AT THE SAME TIME!

MAYBE IT'S SIMPLER THAN WE THINK... REMEMBER--NOT ONLY WAS HE DRESSED DIFFERENTLY, BUT HE HAD A DIFFERENT PAIR OF HELPERS EACH TIME!



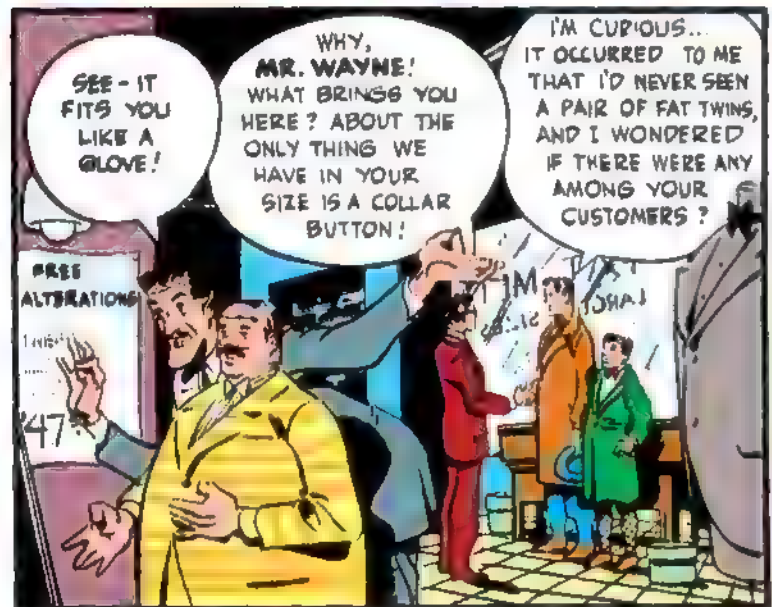
GET YOUR HAT AND COME ALONG, AND IT'S BARELY POSSIBLE YOU'LL FIND OUT!

WHAT'S THAT GOT TO DO WITH IT?



SOONER OR LATER EVERY FAT MAN IN GOTHAM CITY PATRONIZES THIS PLACE-- THE ONLY STORE OF ITS KIND!

BUT THAT MEANS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE-- AND WE'RE ONLY LOOKING FOR ONE!



SEE - IT FITS YOU LIKE A GLOVE!

WHY, MR. WAYNE! WHAT BRINGS YOU HERE? ABOUT THE ONLY THING WE HAVE IN YOUR SIZE IS A COLLAR BUTTON!

I'M CURIOUS... IT OCCURRED TO ME THAT I'D NEVER SEEN A PAIR OF FAT TWINS, AND I WONDERED IF THERE WERE ANY AMONG YOUR CUSTOMERS?



ONLY THE MEAKER BROTHERS --BUT YOU NEVER SEE THEM TOGETHER! ONE IS A REPUBLICAN AND THE OTHER A DEMOCRAT, AND THEY HAVEN'T SPOKEN IN TEN YEARS!

WHMM-- THEY ARE THE ONLY ONES, EH?

I'LL BET HE HAS TO BUY THREE TICKETS EVERY TIME HE GOES TO A BALL GAME!



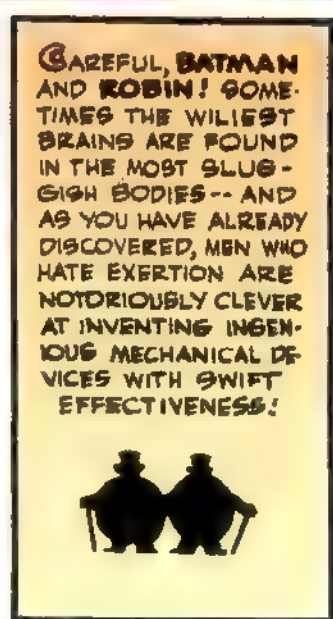
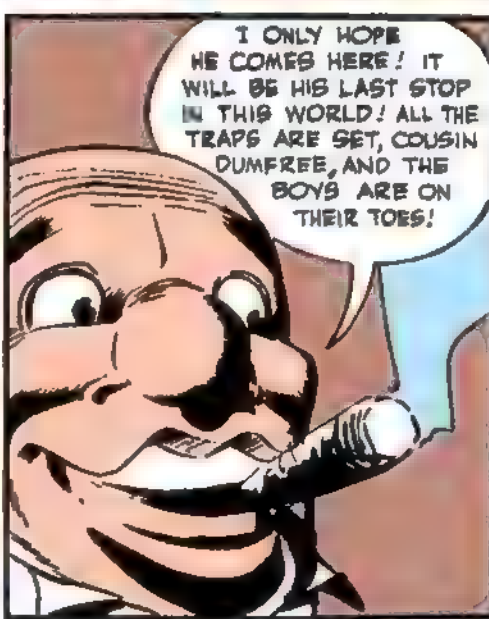
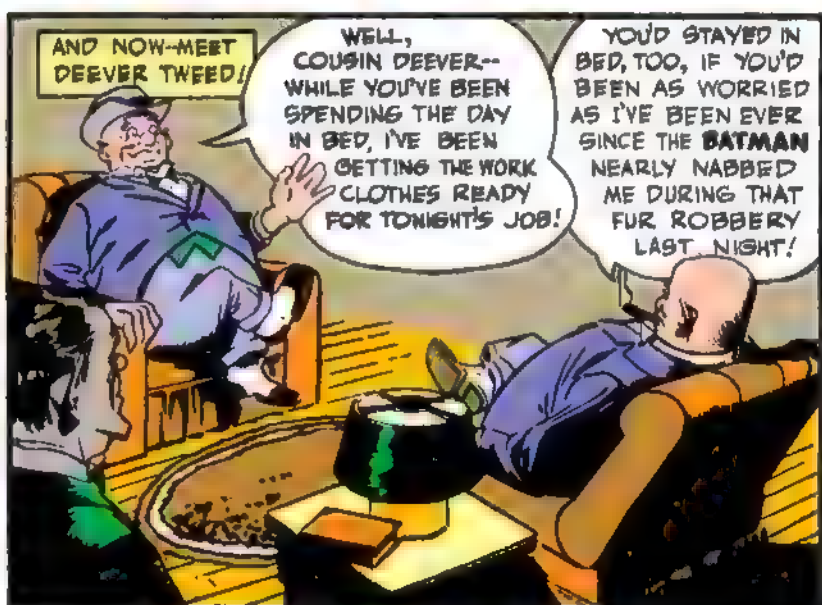
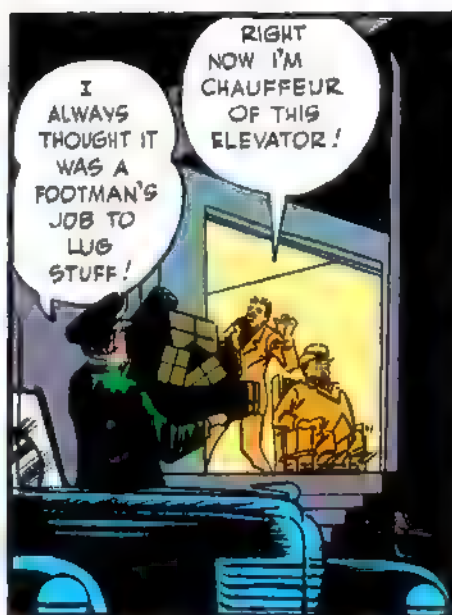
THERE ARE THE TWEED BOYS-- DUMFREE AND DEEVER-- WHO LOOK SO MUCH ALIKE THEY'RE OFTEN MISTAKEN FOR TWINS, ALTHOUGH THEY'RE ONLY COUSINS! I DON'T KNOW WHAT BUSINESS THEY'RE IN, BUT THEY SEEM TO HAVE PLENTY OF MONEY!

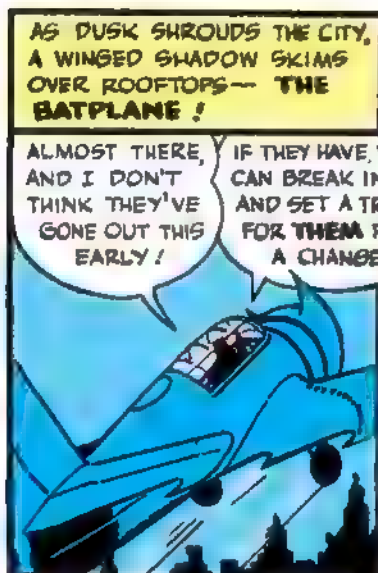
YOU'D BE DOING ME A FAVOR BY GIVING ME THEIR ADDRESS!



SO THAT'S IT-- THEY'RE TWO INSTEAD OF ONE, LOOKING EXACTLY ALIKE!

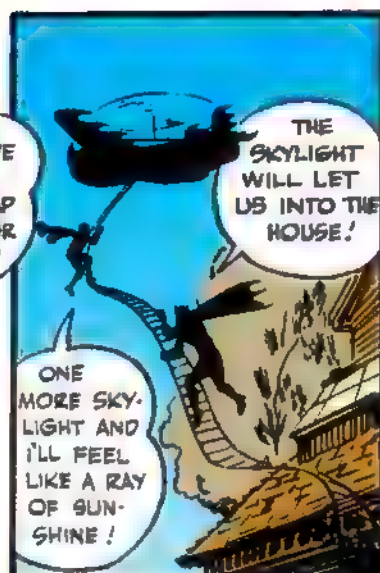
IT'S SO OBVIOUS, WE OVERLOOKED IT AT FIRST! THIS IS THEIR HOUSE -- AND AS SOON AS IT GETS DARK, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE GOING TO PAY THEM A VISIT!





ALMOST THERE,
AND I DON'T
THINK THEY'VE
GONE OUT THIS
EARLY!

IF THEY HAVE, WE
CAN BREAK IN
AND SET A TRAP
FOR THEM FOR
A CHANGE!

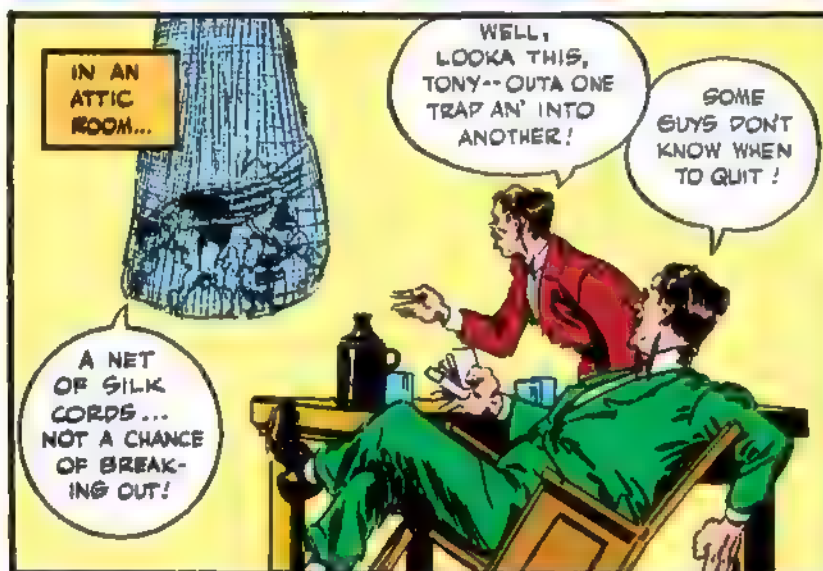


ONE
MORE SKY-
LIGHT AND
I'LL FEEL
LIKE A RAY
OF SUN-
SHINE!



HUH?...
A
TRAPDOOR!

OH, OH--
SOMETHING
TELLS ME THIS
ISN'T GOING TO
BE AS MUCH
FUN AS I
HOPED!



WELL,
LOOKA THIS,
TONY-- OUTA ONE
TRAP AN' INTO
ANOTHER!

SOME
GUYS DON'T
KNOW WHEN
TO QUIT!

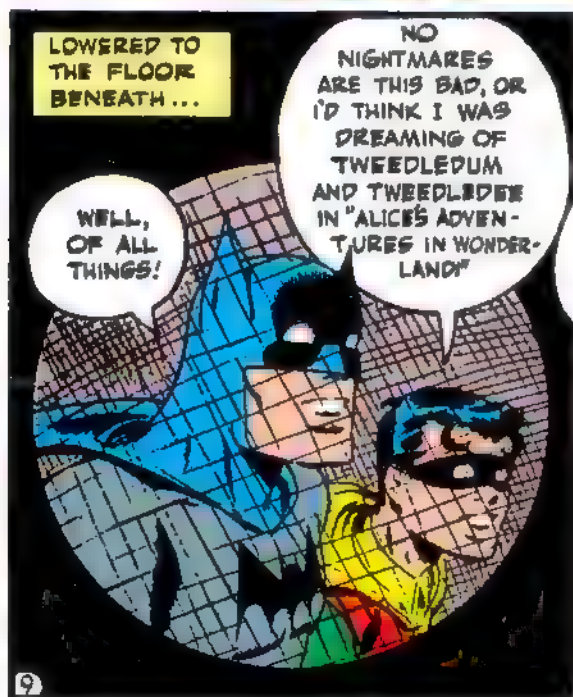
A NET
OF SILK
CORDS...
NOT A CHANCE
OF BREAK-
ING OUT!



HERE'S
A FIRST IN-
STALLMENT ON
THAT KICK I
OWE YOU!

OUCH!

AND YOU'LL GET
MORE WHEN WE
LOWER YOU
DOWNSTAIRS!



WELL,
OF ALL
THINGS!

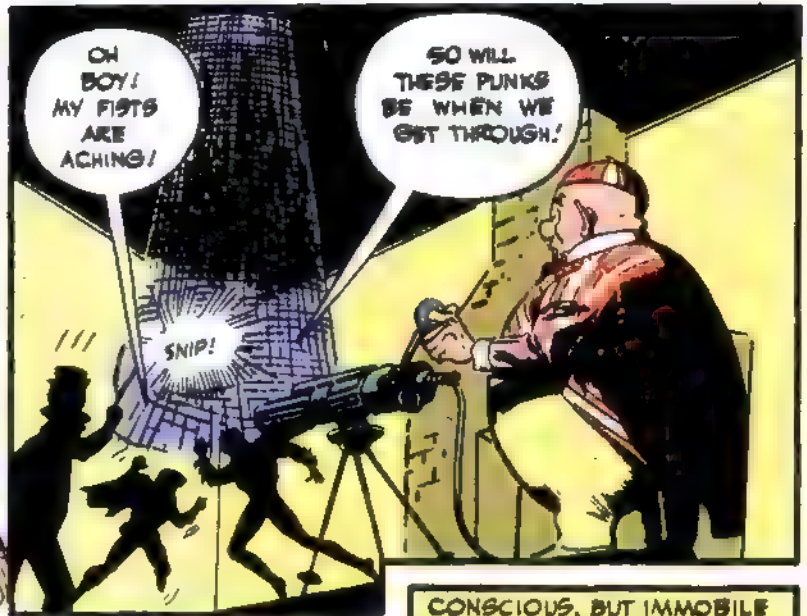
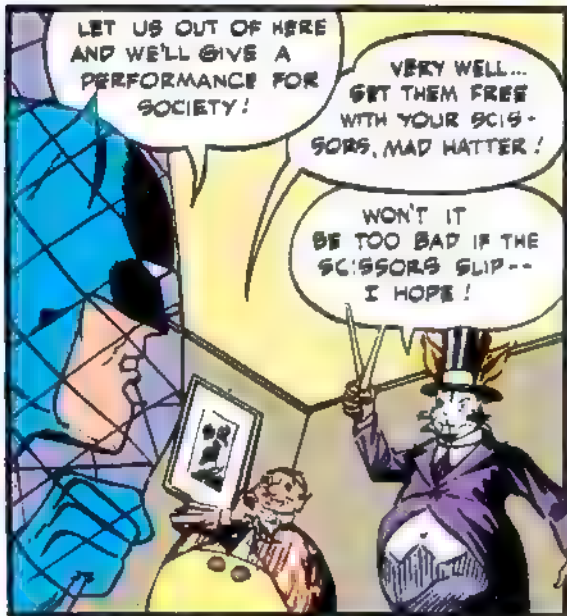
NO
NIGHTMARES
ARE THIS BAD, OR
I'D THINK I WAS
DREAMING OF
TWEEDLEDM
AND TWEEDLEDIE
IN "ALICE'S ADVEN-
TURES IN WONDER-
LAND!"



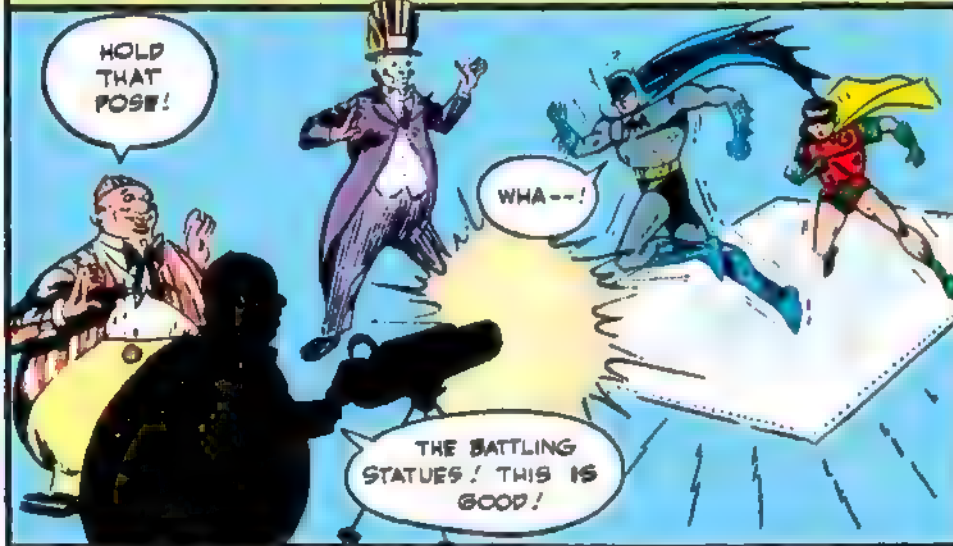
GLAD YOU
DROPPED
IN!

AND
WE DO
MEAN
"DROP!"

TOO BAD WE'RE
LEAVING FOR THE
WAR BOND MASKED
BALL-- A BENEFIT
PERFORMANCE-- FOR
OUR OWN BENEFIT!
HA, HA!



BUT AS THE BATTLING CRIME-SMASHERS LEAP FORWARD, FISTS CLENCHED, THE CRACKLE AND HISS OF ELECTRICITY FILLS THE AIR, AND--



CONSCIOUS, BUT IMMOBILE AS FIGURES CARVED IN MARBLE, THE BATMAN AND ROBIN ARE HELD IN THE GRIP OF A HIGH-FREQUENCY CURRENT!

A LITTLE INVENTION OF MY OWN! A COMBINATION OF TWO CURRENTS AT DIFFERENT SPEEDS REACHES YOU-- ONE THROUGH THE SCREEN ON WHICH YOU ARE STANDING, AND ONE THROUGH THE BEAM FROM THE ELECTRON GUN!

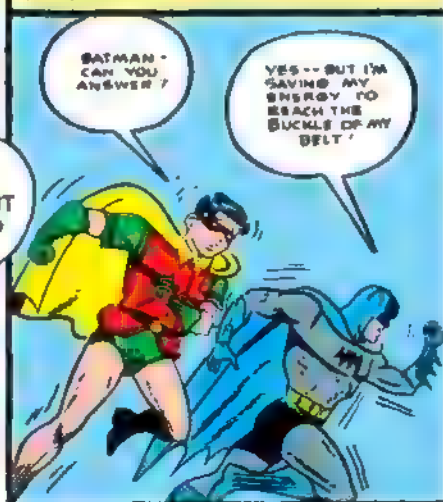


IT WILL BE AMUSING, WATCHING YOU DIE SLOWLY OF STARVATION, DAY AFTER DAY! AND YOU'LL BE DECORATIVE TOO!

COME, COUSIN DUMFRIES-- WE CAN TALK TO THEM LATER! WE MUSTN'T MISS THE GRAND MARCH!



MINUTES LATER, ROBIN MANAGES TO SQUEEZE A HOARSE WHISPER THROUGH TINGLING VOCAL CHORDS...



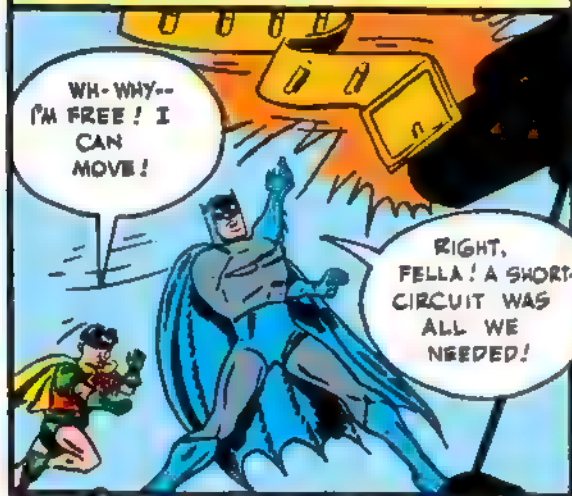
A GRIM BATTLE OF INFLEXIBLE WILL AGAINST MUSCLES SO DRUGGED WITH ELECTRICITY AS TO BE NEARLY NERVELESS...



FINALLY...HE UNBUCKLES HIS BELT...



WHIPPED BY DESPERATE FINGERS, THE METAL BUCKLE OF THE BELT SAILS INTO THE CONNECTIONS OF THE ELECTRON GUN AND CAUSE A BLINDING FLASH...



WH-WHY--
I'M FREE! I
CAN
MOVE!

RIGHT,
FELLA! A SHORT-
CIRCUIT WAS
ALL WE
NEEDED!

AND NOW TO SHORT-
CIRCUIT THE
CROOKED PLAN OF
THE TWEEDLE TWINS--
DUM AND DEE! I'LL
PHONE THE MANAGER
OF THE BALL TO
EXPECT US!



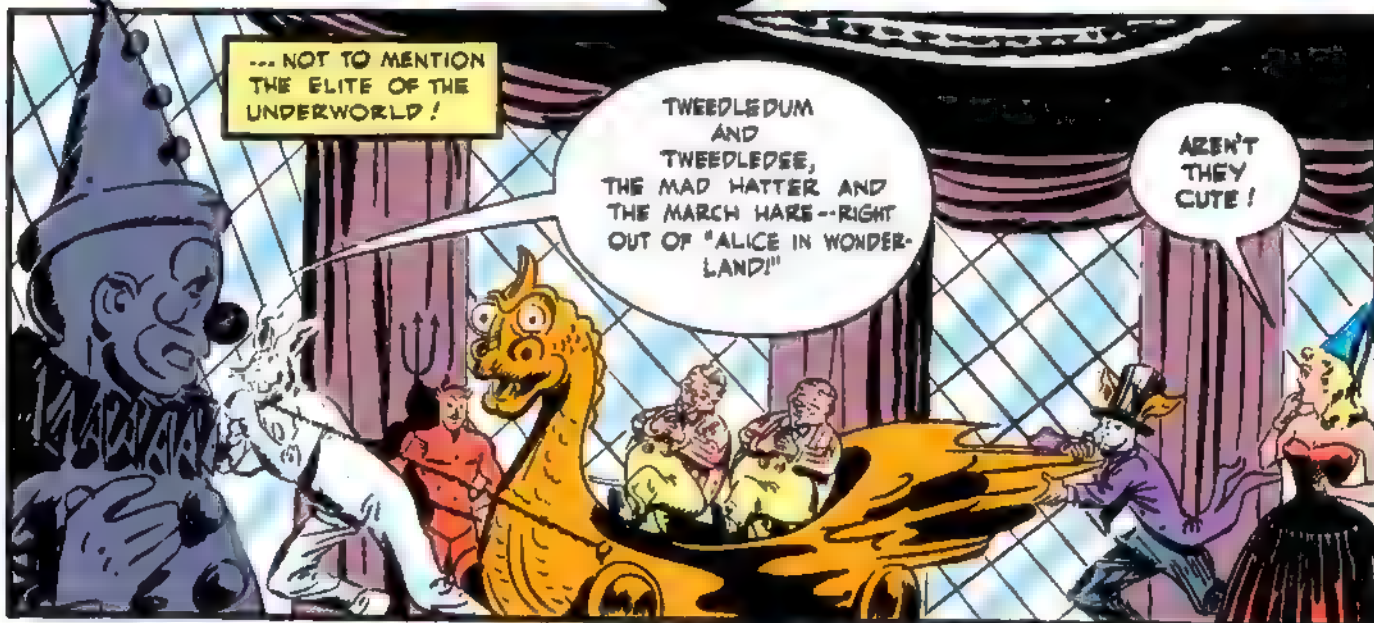
OH, BOY--
ONLY THE
RICHEST PEOPLE
IN TOWN WILL BE
THERE! THE AD-
MISSION IS A
\$1000 WAR
BOND!

IN THE GILMORES' GLITTERING BALL-
ROOM, HIGH SOCIETY'S LEADING
MEMBERS ARE LINING UP FOR THE
GRAND MARCH...



MONTMORENCY,
YOU AREN'T
PAYING ANY
ATTENTION
TO ME!

YES,
MY DEAR!



... NOT TO MENTION
THE ELITE OF THE
UNDERWORLD!

TWEEDLEDUM
AND
TWEEDLEDEE,
THE MAD HATTER AND
THE MARCH HARE--RIGHT
OUT OF "ALICE IN WONDER-
LAND!"

AREN'T
THEY
CUTE!

WHEN THE SPECTACULAR
PARADE HAS ENDED, THE
JUDGES PREPARE TO
AWARD THE PRIZES...



THE JUDGES ARE UNAN-
IMOUS IN AWARDING THE
GRAND PRIZE FOR THE
BEST COSTUMES TO FOUR
COMPETITORS --

-- TWEEDLEDUM AND
TWEEDLEDEE, THE MARCH
HARE, AND THE MAD
HATTER!



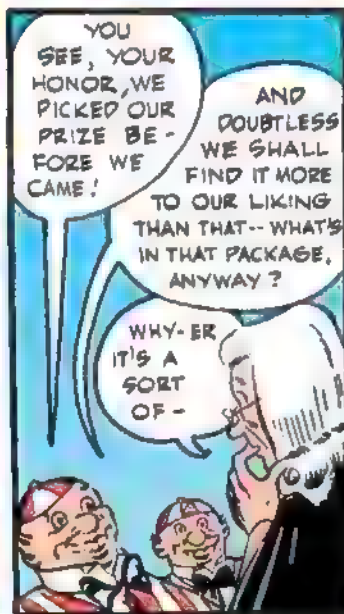
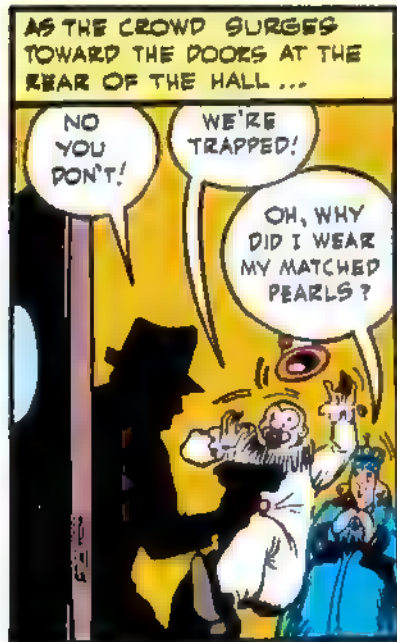
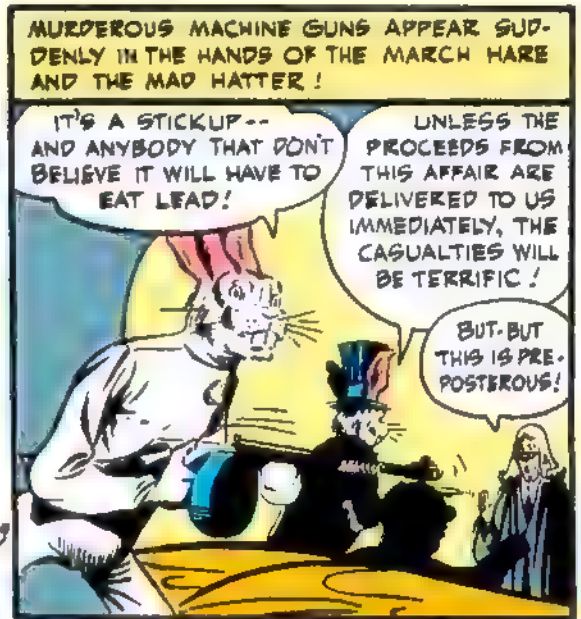
WELL,
COUSIN DEEVER,
WE'VE DONE IT!

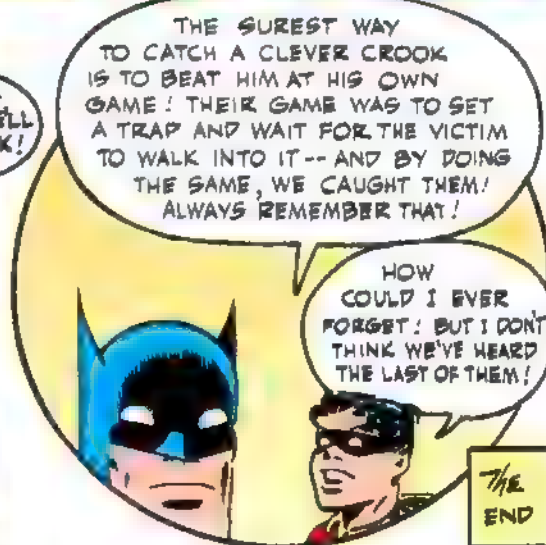
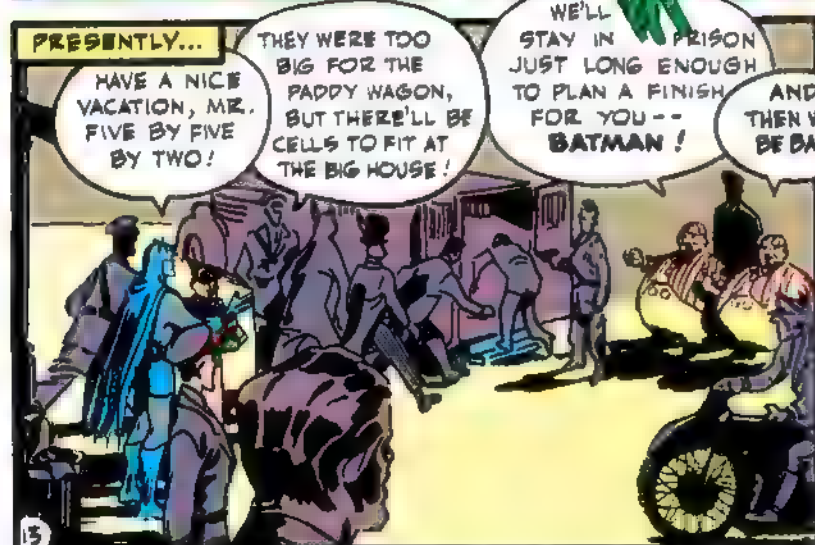
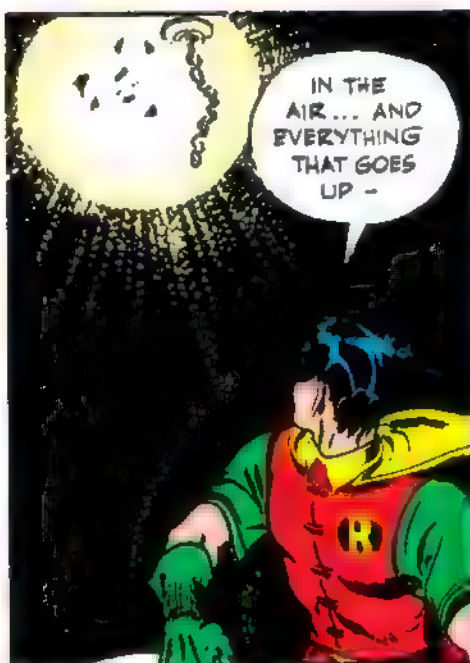
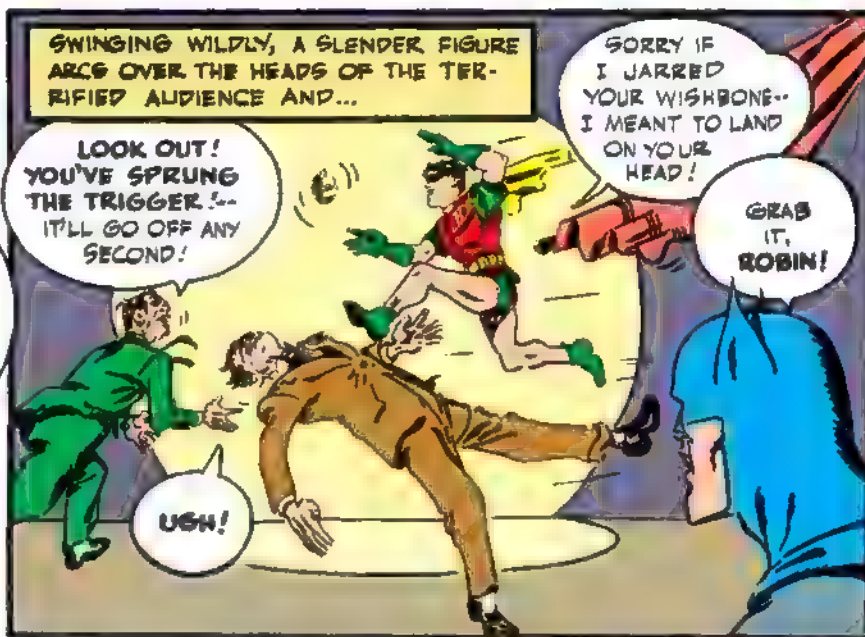
DIDN'T I
TELL YOU
WE
WOULD,
COUSIN
DUMFREE?

WILLING HANDS AID THE ASCENT
OF THE WEIGHTY WINNERS...



I
WOULDN'T HAVE
WORN A SAMSON
COSTUME IF I'D
KNOWN ABOUT
THIS!





SPRING
ISSUE
No. 9

SUPERMAN! BATMAN! BOY COMMANDOS!

WORLD'S FINEST COMICS

**96
PAGES**



BATMAN

WITH
ROBIN
-THE BOY

▲ CONTEST FOR CROOKS -- GANG PITTED AGAINST GANG, COMPETING FOR THAT GREATEST OF ALL PRIZES -- THE LOOT OF A BIG CITY!

SUCH IS THE MALEVOLENT SCHEME OF AN EVIL GENIUS WHO TWISTS THE NATIONAL CONTEST-CRAZE INTO A CUNNING GAME OF SWAG AND PLUNDER!

AND IT TAKES ALL THE DARING AND SPEED OF THOSE ACE UNTANGLERS OF DIABOLICAL PLOTS -- THE **BATMAN** AND **ROBIN**! -- TO WRITE THE SMASHING ANSWER TO THE ...

"CRIME of the MONTH"



THE GRIM RIDDLE OPENS WITH AN ORDINARY, NEATLY ENGRAVED INVITATION...

You are Cordially Invited to attend a LITERARY TEA at Mystery Castle, home of Mr. Bramwell, the famous B. Bramwell, the famous writer of best-selling Crime novels

BUT ITS RECIPIENTS ARE THE STRANGEST ONE COULD IMAGINE!



HUH?

ME?

SOMETHIN'S FISHY!

I DON'T GET THE IDEA!

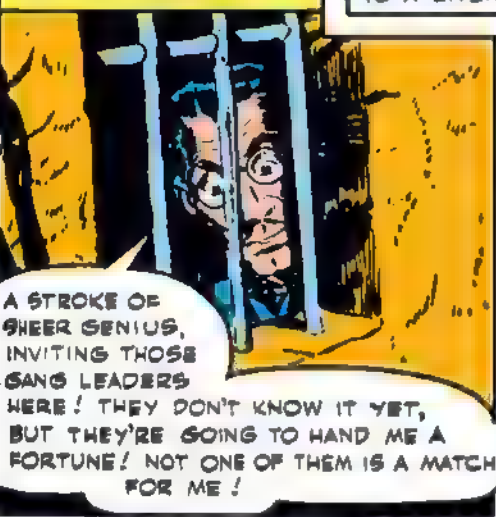
AND AS A CHILL MARCH WIND WHIPS AROUND THE AUTHOR'S GLOOMY CASTLE, A PROCESSION OF BULLETPROOF CARS ARRIVES AT THE RENDEZVOUS...

MAYBE BRAMWELL WANTS TO PUT US IN A BOOK!

NAH! HE KNOWS PLENTY ABOUT CROOKS WITHOUT STUDYIN' US! I DON'T LIKE THE LOOKS OF THIS!

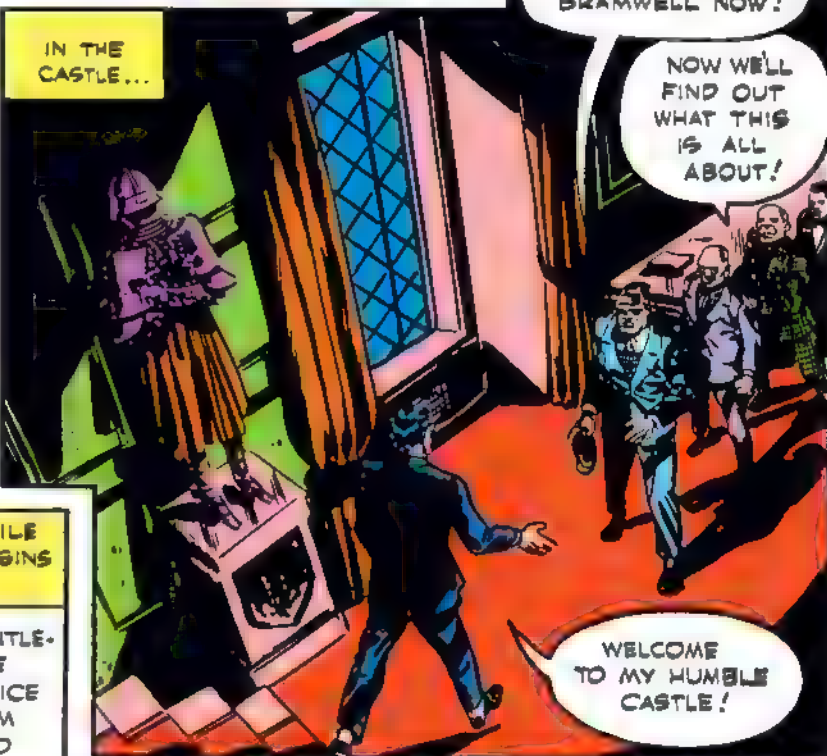
MEANWHILE, UNSEEN FROM BELOW, THE NOTED HOST TAKES STOCK OF HIS ODD GUESTS...

...THE CRIME BOSSES OF GOTHAM CITY -- INVITED TO A LITERARY TEA!



A STROKE OF SHEER GENIUS, INVITING THOSE GANG LEADERS HERE! THEY DON'T KNOW IT YET, BUT THEY'RE GOING TO HAND ME A FORTUNE! NOT ONE OF THEM IS A MATCH FOR ME!

IN THE CASTLE...



HERE COMES BRAMWELL NOW!

NOW WE'LL FIND OUT WHAT THIS IS ALL ABOUT!

WELCOME TO MY HUMBLE CASTLE!

IMPATIENTLY, THE MOB BOSSES WAIT WHILE TEA IS SERVED... THEN BRAMWELL BEGINS TO SPEAK...

WHAT'S THE IDEA BACK O' THIS LITERARY TEA, BRAMWELL?

IT'S VERY SIMPLE, GENTLEMEN! FOR YEARS, I'VE BEEN OUTWITTING THE POLICE IN MY BOOKS! NOW I'M CONVINCED I CAN OUTDO THE BEST CRIMES YOU CAN COMMIT... AND I'M WILLING TO BET ON IT!

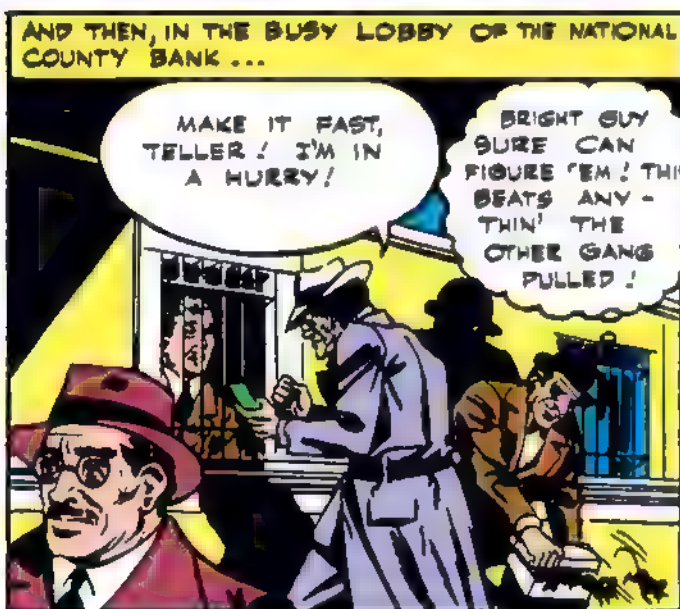
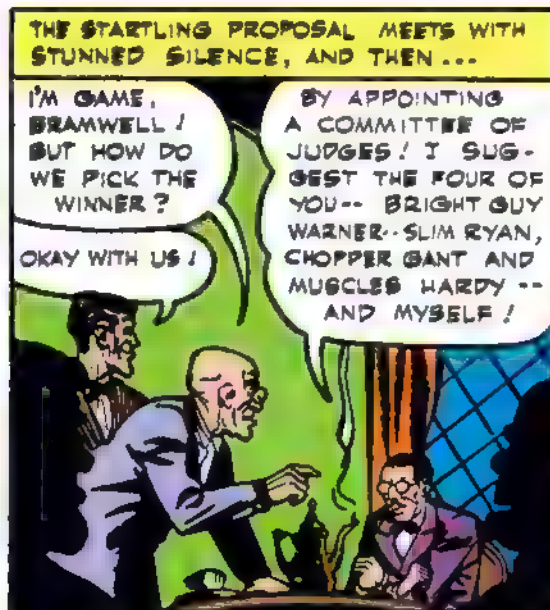
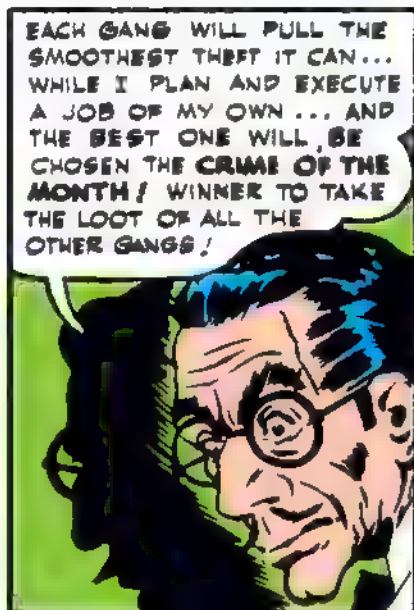


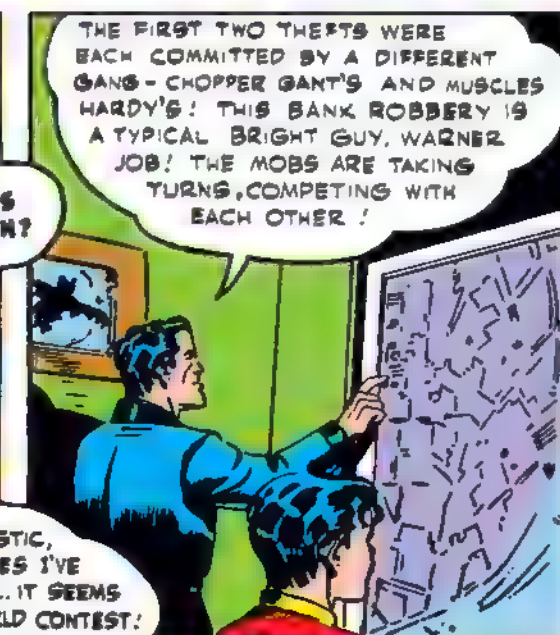
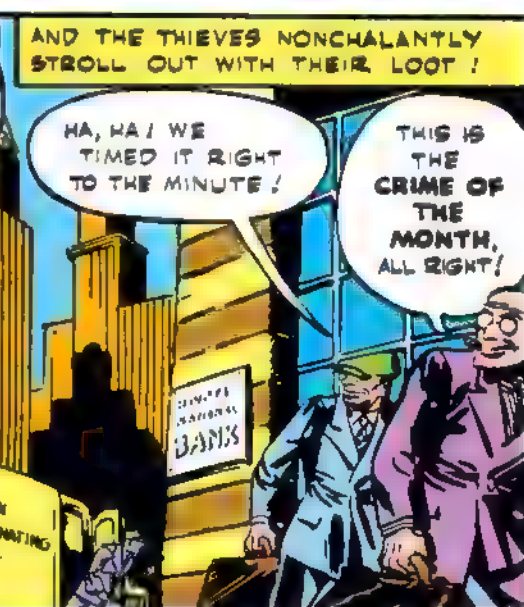
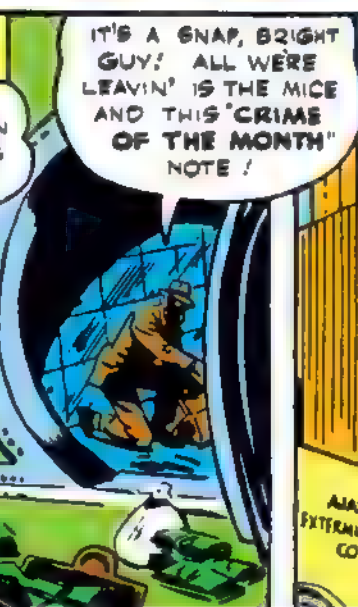
YER CRAZY, BRAMWELL! I BET YA NEVER EVEN HAD A GAT IN YER HAND!

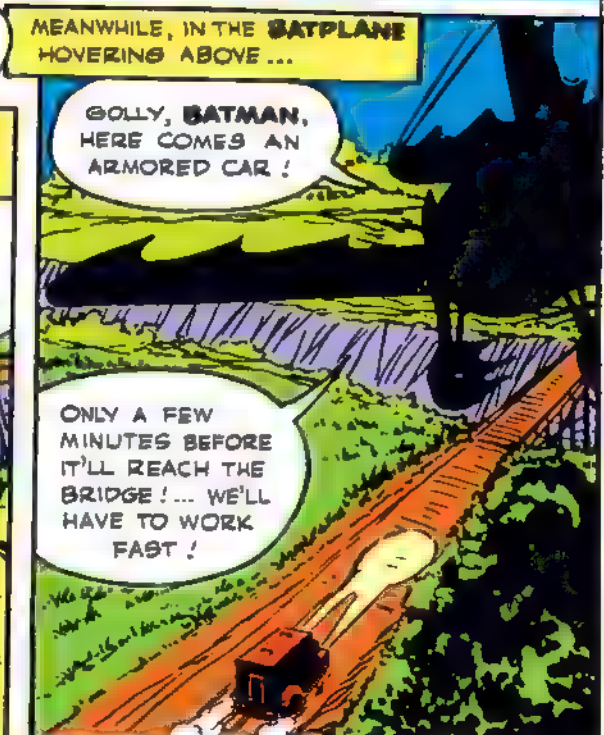
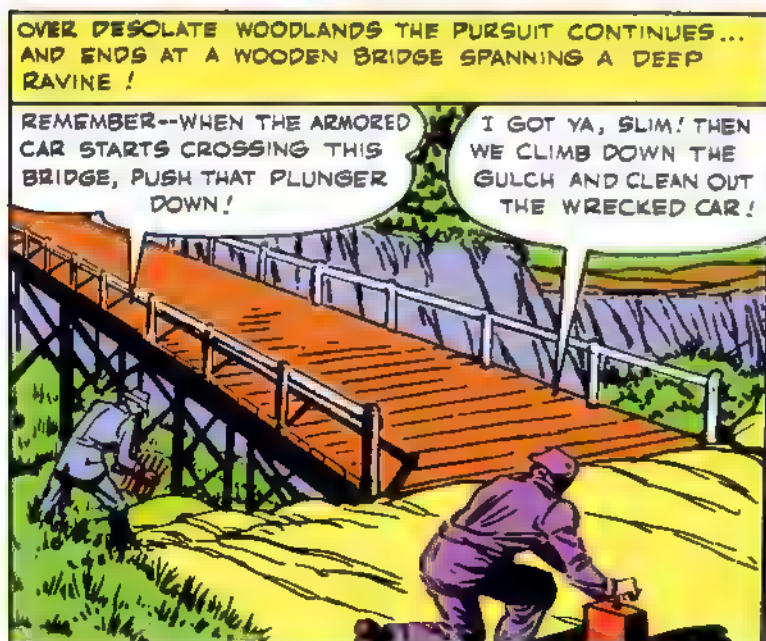
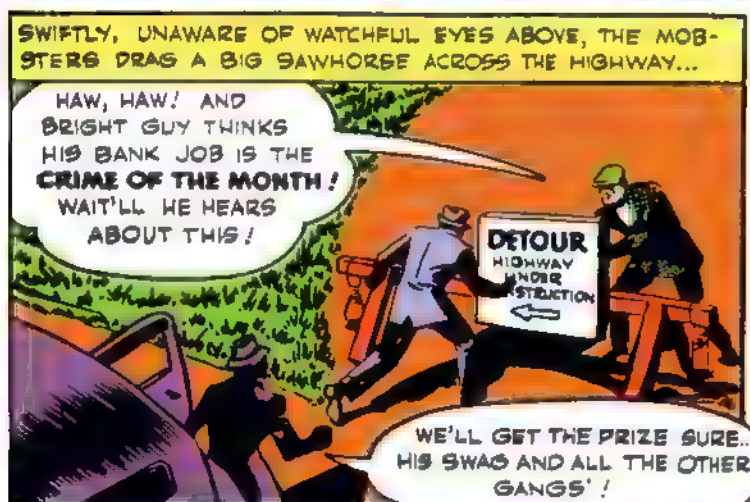
WHY, YOU COULDN'T PULL A REAL JOB... LET ALONE BEAT ANY OF OURS!

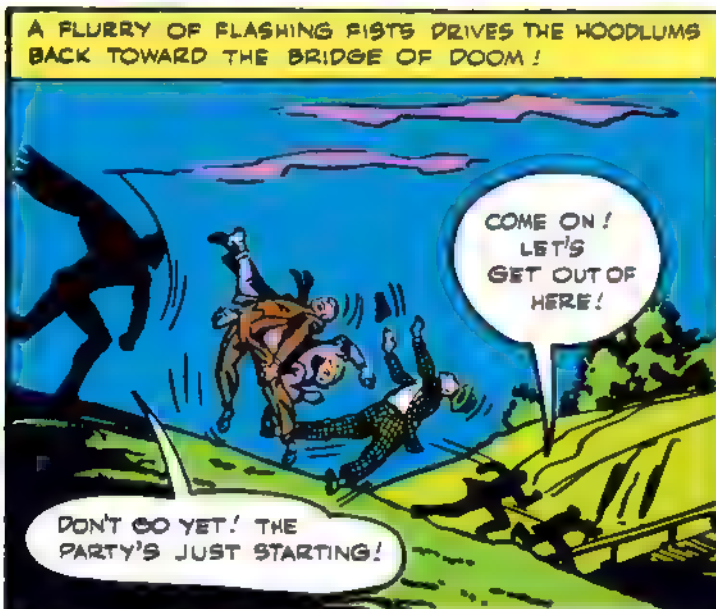
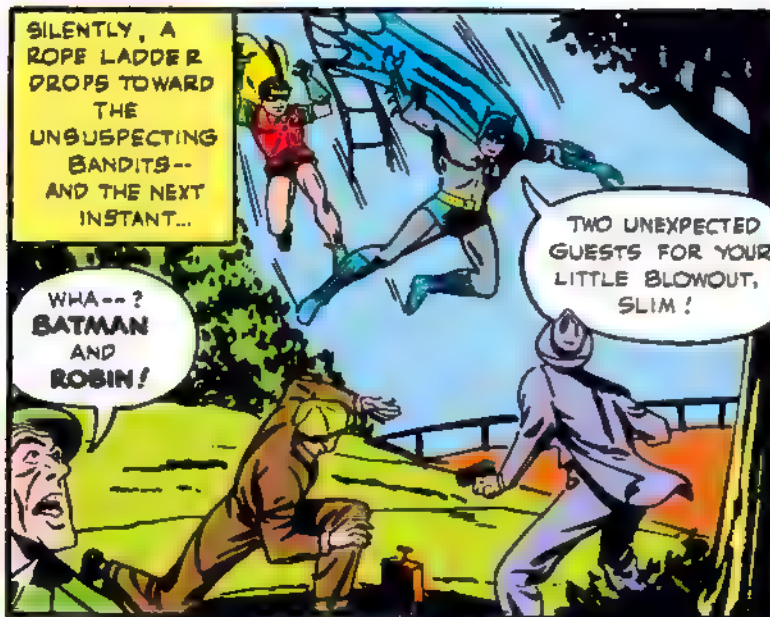
I THINK I CAN! SO I PROPOSE A CONTEST...













RUSH HIM!

LOOKS LIKE YOU'LL HAVE TO ESCAPE OVER MY DEAD BODY! ANYBODY CARE TO TRY?



JUST THEN, WARNED BY THE THUNDEROUS EXPLOSION, THE ARMORED CAR BRAKES TO A SCREECHING STOP...

SO THAT'S THE BLAST WE HEARD! ANOTHER MINUTE AND WE WOULD HAVE BEEN HAMBURGER!

THANKS, BATMAN! WE'LL TAKE 'EM OFF YOUR HANDS NOW!

UNDER THE THREATENING MUZZLES OF SUBMACHINE GUNS, THE MOB SULLENLY SURRENDERS...

BUT SUDDENLY AN OUTLAW MAKES A DESPERATE BID FOR FREEDOM!

THE MOTOR ROARS TO LIFE... A CLASH OF GEARS... AND SLIM RYAN SPEEDS OUT OF SIGHT!

BUT WHAT'S THE IDEA? HE'S GONE NOW!

HE'LL LEAD ME TO HIS PALS! ROBIN, HELP TURN THE GANG OVER TO THE POLICE! I'LL CONTACT YOU WHEN I FIND OUT WHERE I'M GOING!

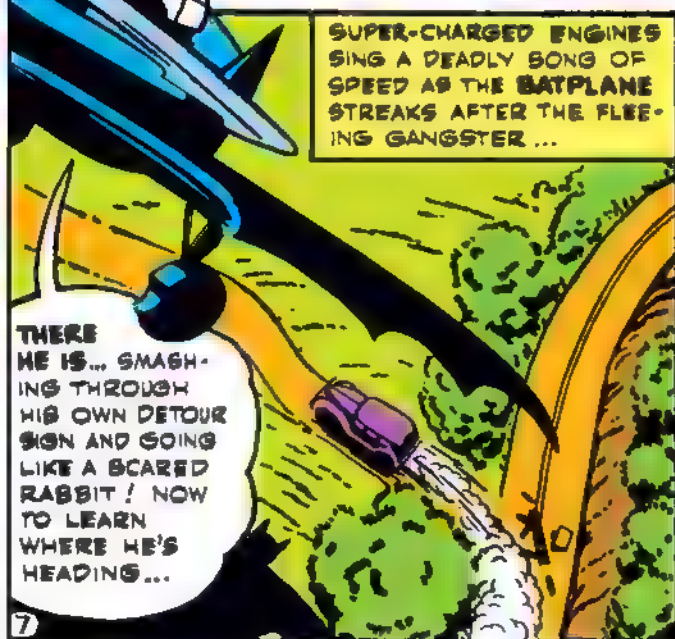
RIGHT, BATMAN!

GOOD THING THAT EXPLOSION CAME TOO SOON! WE'RE HAULING A LOAD OF NEW BANKNOTES FROM THE MINT!

THIS MIGHT HAVE BEEN THE CRIME OF THE MONTH -- IF IT HAD SUCCEEDED!

HE THINKS HE'LL GET AWAY, HUH? I'LL ---

DON'T SHOOT! LET HIM ESCAPE!



SUPER-CHARGED ENGINES SING A DEADLY SONG OF SPEED AS THE BATPLANE STREAKS AFTER THE FLEEING GANGSTER...

THERE HE IS... SMASHING THROUGH HIS OWN DETOUR SIGN AND GOING LIKE A SCARED RABBIT! NOW TO LEARN WHERE HE'S HEADING...



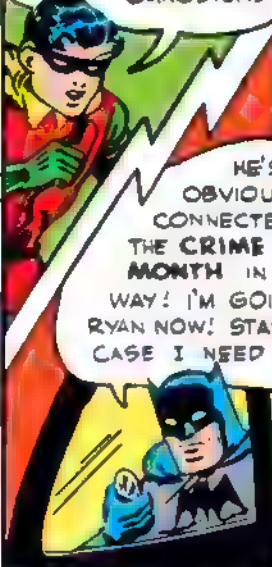
THE FRIGHTENED FELON FINALLY REACHES SANCTUARY...

THE WHOLE PLAN RUINED BY THOSE BLASTED MEDDLERS! BUT AT LEAST I'LL BE SAFE FROM THEM IN BRAMWELL'S CASTLE!



MEANWHILE, ABOVE THE STRONGHOLD'S FROWNING BATTLEMENTS, BATMAN QUICKLY CONTACTS HIS YOUNG AIDE...

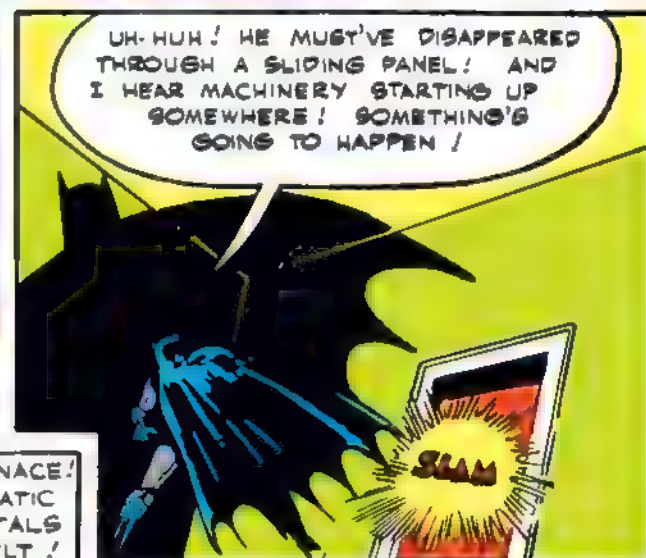
RYAN SLIPPED INTO BRAMWELL'S CASTLE? BUT WHAT'S BRAMWELL GOT TO DO WITH GANGSTERS?



LITELY SWINGING DOWN FROM THE HOVERING BATPLANE, THE CLOAKED CRIME-FIGHTER BURSTS RECKLESSLY INSIDE GLOOMY MYSTERY CASTLE!



AND THE KNAVISH NOVELIST VANISHES FROM SIGHT!



SOMETHING IS HAPPENING RIGHT NOW! FOR BATMAN SUDDENLY FEELS EVERY METAL OBJECT ON HIM BECOMING UNBEARABLY HOT!



AN INDUCTION FURNACE! IT GENERATES STATIC ELECTRICITY IN METALS AND MAKES THEM MELT! LUCKY I HAVE NO DENTAL FILLINGS! THEY'D HEAT UP TO 3000 DEGREES AND COOK MY BRAIN!



NO KNOB ON THE DOOR...NO WINDOWS TO CLIMB THROUGH... AND ALL THE TOOLS FROM MY UTILITY BELT JUST A PUZZLE! IF I COULD ONLY CALL ROBIN! BUT MY PORTABLE WIRELESS SET IS USELESS TOO! WHAT A SPOT TO BE IN...



MEANWHILE, IN DISTANT GOTHAM CITY, SOME SIXTH SENSE STIRS WARNINGLY IN THE BOY WONDER'S ALERT MIND...

IT'S OVER AN HOUR SINCE BATMAN CALLED! SOMETHING MUST BE WRONG! HE WOULDN'T WAIT THIS LONG TO GET IN TOUCH WITH ME!



BATMAN MUST BE IN TROUBLE! I'VE GOT TO GET TO BRAMWELL'S CASTLE -- BUT FAST!



AT BREAKNECK SPEED, THE BOY WONDER SWIFTLY REACHES THE FORBIDDING STRUCTURE AND BURSTS INSIDE!

NOT A SOUL IN SIGHT! MAYBE I'M TOO LATE!



DESPERATELY ROBIN CHARGES THROUGH ONE DESERTED CHAMBER AFTER ANOTHER ... UNTIL SUDDENLY ...

OH-OH! I RAN RIGHT INTO A TRAP!

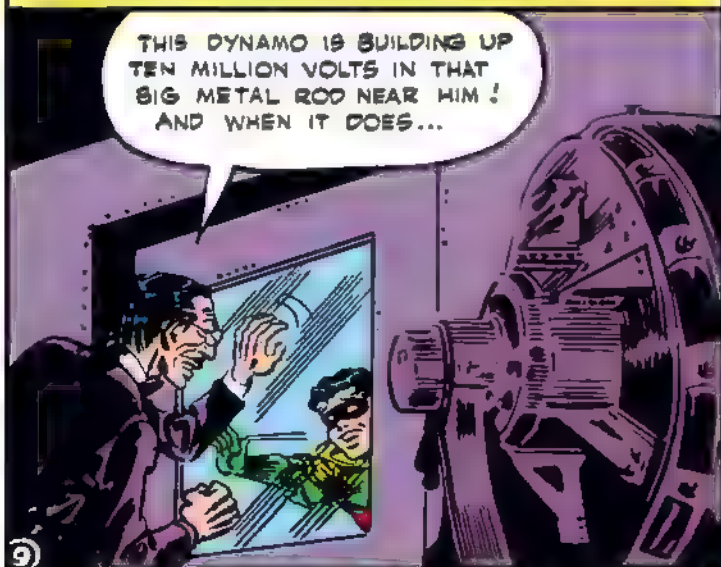


THICK - OR ISN'T IT? I DON'T SEE ANYTHING HERE THAT CAN HARM ME!

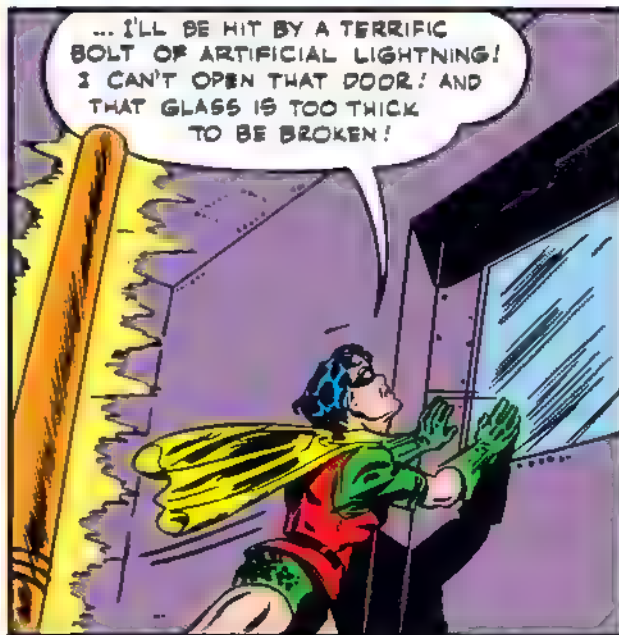


BUT, NO? YOU FORGET, ROBIN, YOU'RE DEALING WITH BRAMWELL, THE CRIMINAL CRIME NOVELIST!

THIS DYNAMO IS BUILDING UP TEN MILLION VOLTS IN THAT BIG METAL ROD NEAR HIM! AND WHEN IT DOES...



... I'LL BE HIT BY A TERRIFIC BOLT OF ARTIFICIAL LIGHTNING! I CAN'T OPEN THAT DOOR! AND THAT GLASS IS TOO THICK TO BE BROKEN!

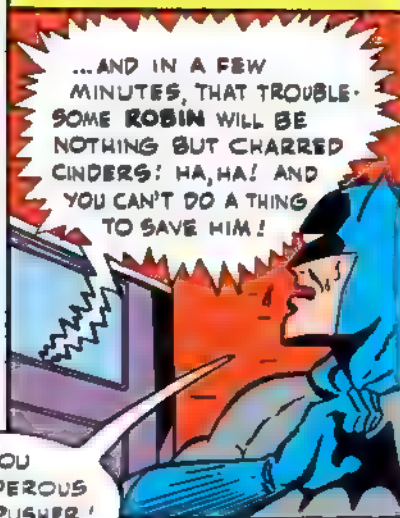


WHILE ROBIN FACES BEARING DOOM IN ANOTHER PART OF THE CASTLE, BATMAN SEEKS A WAY OF ESCAPE... AND FINDS NONE!



NO WAY OF GETTING OUT... NO AIR COMING IN! IF I DON'T FIND A WAY OUT, I'LL SUFFOCATE!

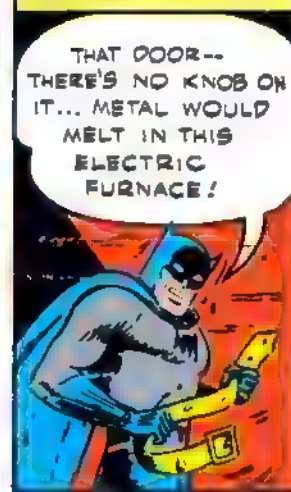
SUDDENLY, BRAMWELL'S GLOATING VOICE COMES THROUGH THE TIGHTLY SEALED DOOR...



...AND IN A FEW MINUTES, THAT TROUBLE-SOME ROBIN WILL BE NOTHING BUT CHARRED CINDERS! HA, HA! AND YOU CAN'T DO A THING TO SAVE HIM!

YOU MURDEROUS PEN-PUSHER!

AND AS BRAMWELL'S FOOTFALLS FADE DOWN THE CAVERNOUS CORRIDOR...



THAT DOOR-- THERE'S NO KNOB ON IT... METAL WOULD MELT IN THIS ELECTRIC FURNACE!

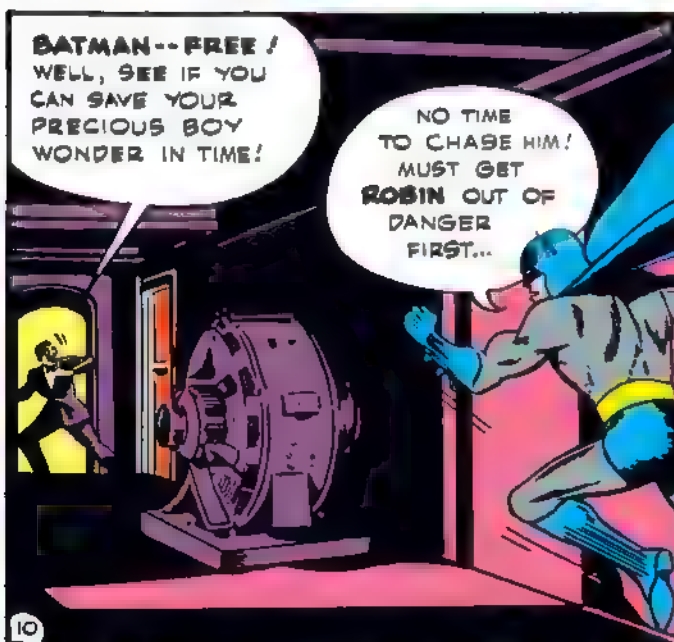


... SO THERE CAN'T BE ANY LOCK EITHER! THIS SUCTION DISK FROM MY UTILITY BELT OUGHT TO DO THE TRICK! UGH! IT'S HELD BY HEAVY RUBBER SPRINGS...



BUT RUBBER SPRINGS PROVE NO MATCH FOR BATMAN'S MIGHTY MUSCLES AND SOON...

MACHINERY RUNNING DOWNSTAIRS! THAT'S WHERE ROBIN MUST BE!



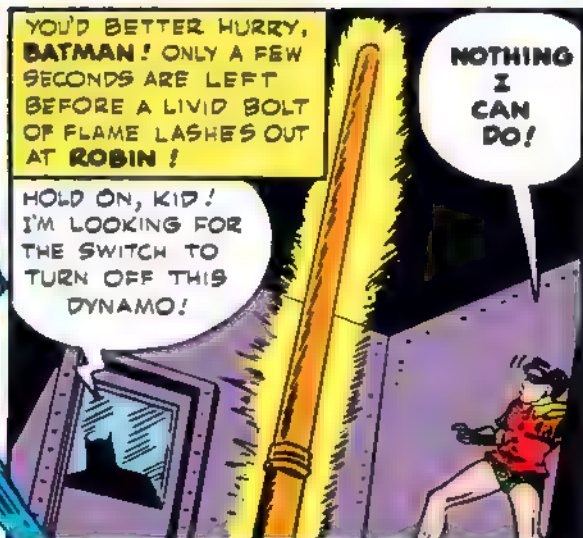
BATMAN--FREE! WELL, SEE IF YOU CAN SAVE YOUR PRECIOUS BOY WONDER IN TIME!

NO TIME TO CHASE HIM! MUST GET ROBIN OUT OF DANGER FIRST...

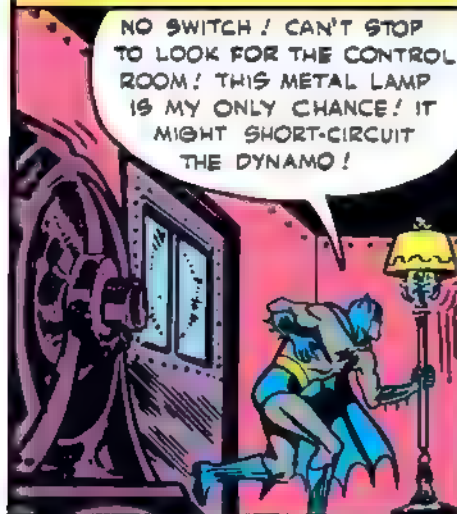
YOU'D BETTER HURRY, BATMAN! ONLY A FEW SECONDS ARE LEFT BEFORE A LIVID BOLT OF FLAME LASHES OUT AT ROBIN!

HOLD ON, KID! I'M LOOKING FOR THE SWITCH TO TURN OFF THIS DYNAMO!

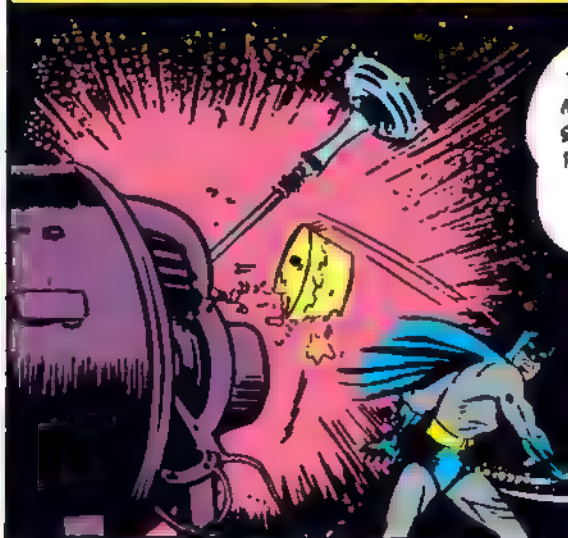
NOTHING I CAN DO!



BUT THE DYNAMO, BATMAN LEARNS, IS SYNCHRONIZED WITH THE SLIDING DOORS!



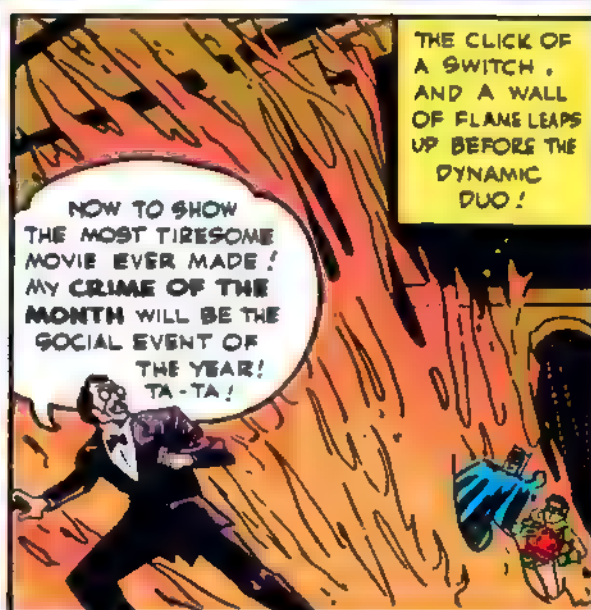
ABRUPTLY, HE HURLS THE LAMP INTO THE WHIRLING MACHINE...



...AND SMASHES THE THICK WINDOW WITH A STOUT CHAIR...



THERE HE IS NOW!

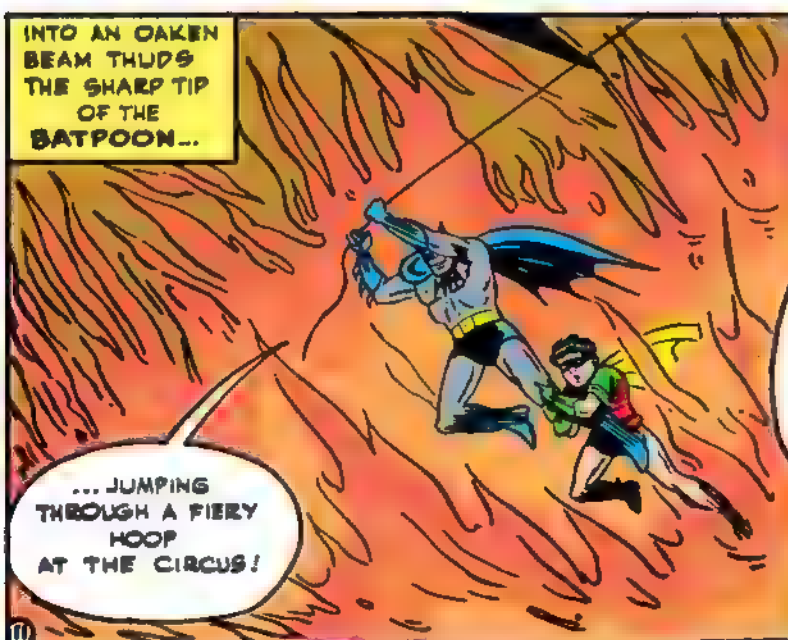


THE CLICK OF A SWITCH, AND A WALL OF FLAME LEAPS UP BEFORE THE DYNAMIC DUO!



NO... BUT YOUR BATPOON WILL MAKE IT SEEM LIKE...

INTO AN OAKEN BEAM THUDS THE SHARP TIP OF THE BATPOON...



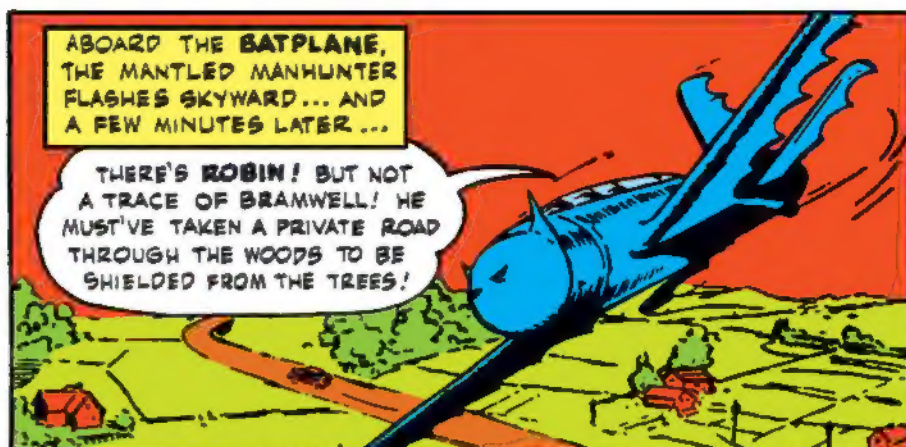
BUT WHEN THE POWERHOUSE PAIR PLUNGES OUT OF THE GRIM CASTLE...



TAKE THE BATMOBILE AND SEARCH FOR HIM! I'LL CLIMB UP TO THE ROOF AND GO AFTER HIM IN THE BATPLANE! WE'LL MEET AT THE HOUSE LATER, IF WE DON'T CATCH HIM!



HE CAN'T GET AWAY FROM THE BATPLANE AND THE BATMOBILE BOTH!



ABOARD THE BATPLANE, THE MANTLED MANHUNTER FLASHES SKYWARD... AND A FEW MINUTES LATER...

THERE'S ROBIN! BUT NOT A TRACE OF BRAMWELL! HE MUST'VE TAKEN A PRIVATE ROAD THROUGH THE WOODS TO BE SHIELDED FROM THE TREES!

EYES NARROWED, THE HOOD-ED SLEUTH PONDER'S A SINGLE SLIM CLUE...

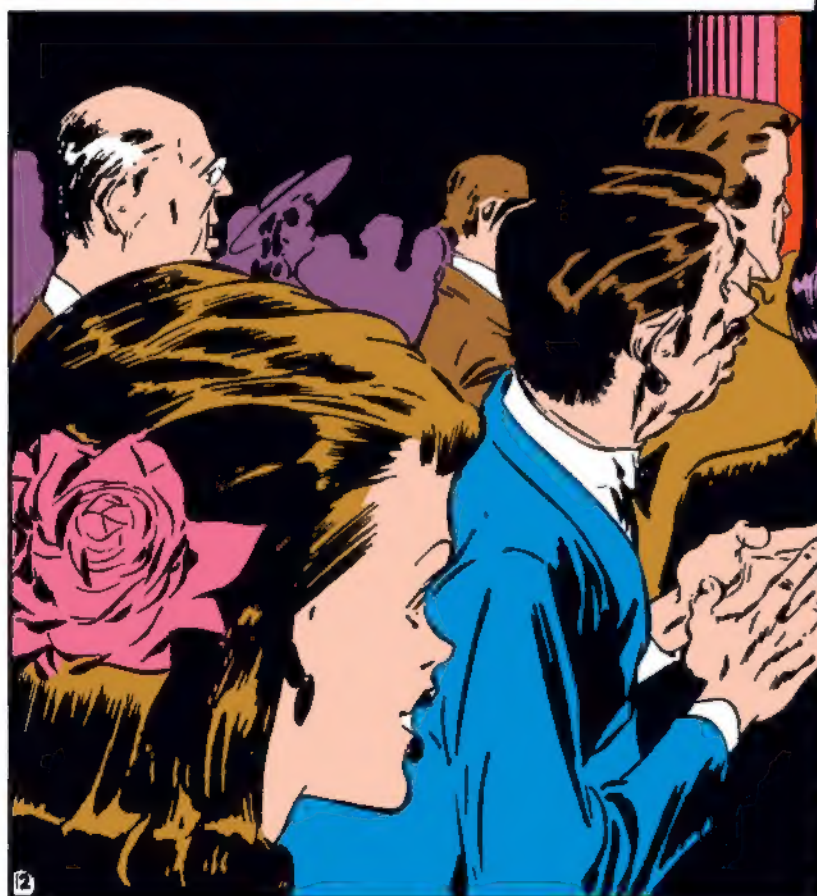
SO BRAMWELL'S CRIME OF THE MONTH WILL BE THE SOCIAL EVENT OF THE YEAR, EH? HMM... THAT FITS THE ALLIED WAR RELIEF DRIVE THAT SOCIETY IS GIVING TONIGHT! AND THAT PHRASE "THE MOST TIRE SOME MOVIE EVER MADE," IS FAMILIAR! WHERE DID I COME ACROSS IT BEFORE---

MEANWHILE, IN A TREE-SHADOWED LANE FAR FROM MYSTERY CASTLE...

THOSE SIMPLETONS WILL NEVER FIND ME! AND NOW TO WIN THE BIGGEST PRIZE... THE LOOT THOSE IGNORANT GANGSTERS GARNERED--ALL FOR ME!

AND THAT NIGHT, AT SOCIETY'S GLITTERING WAR RELIEF DRIVE...

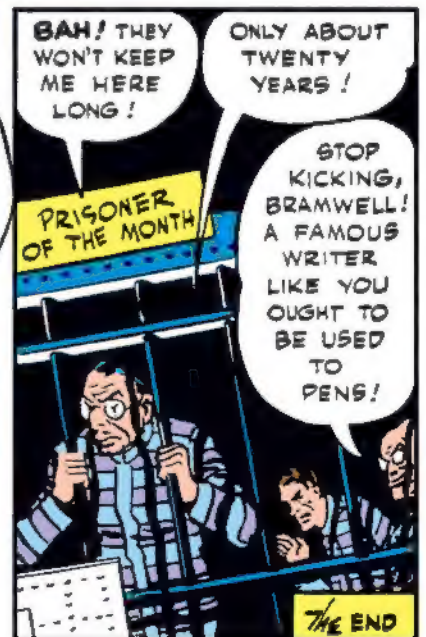
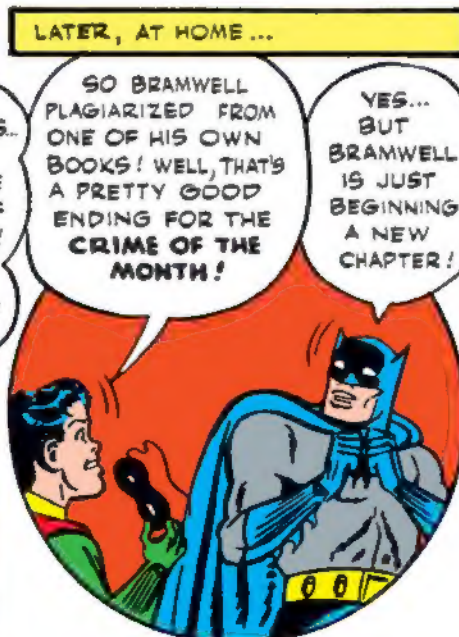
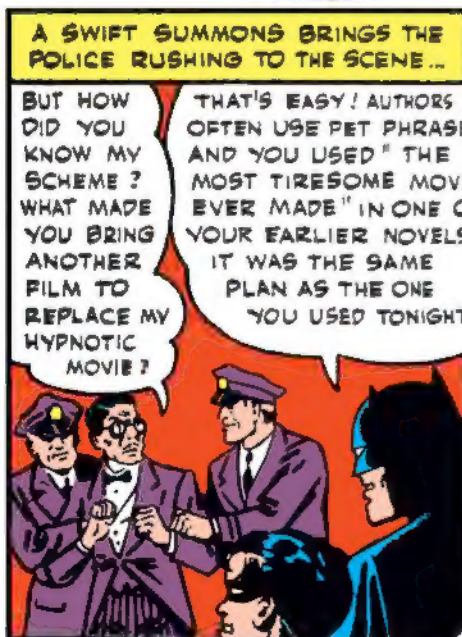
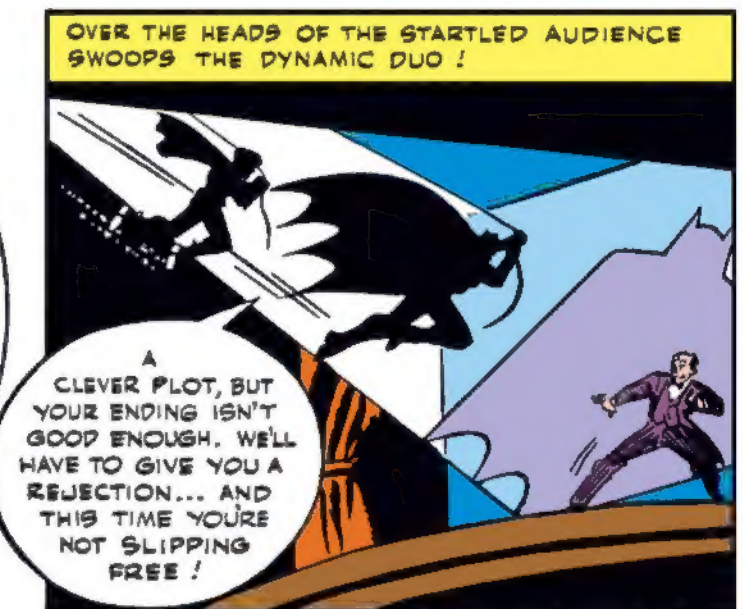
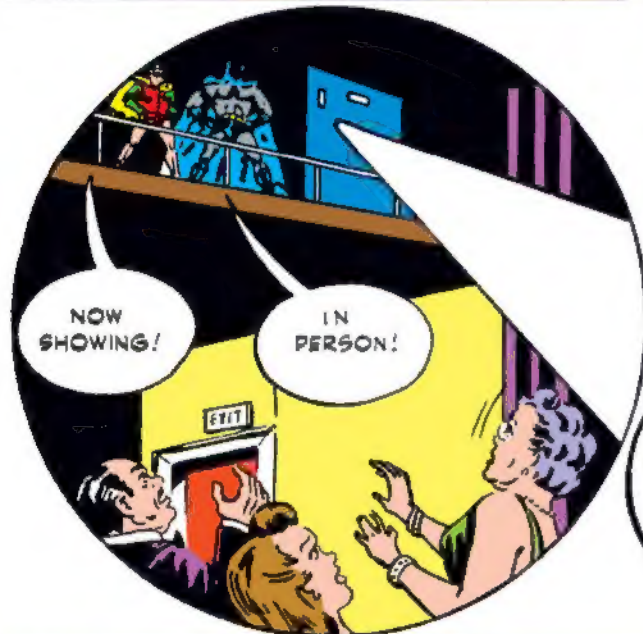
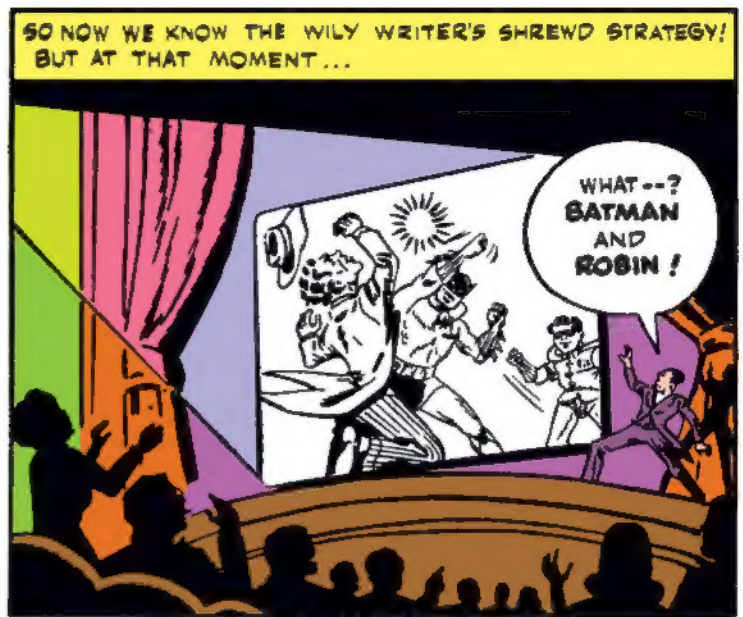
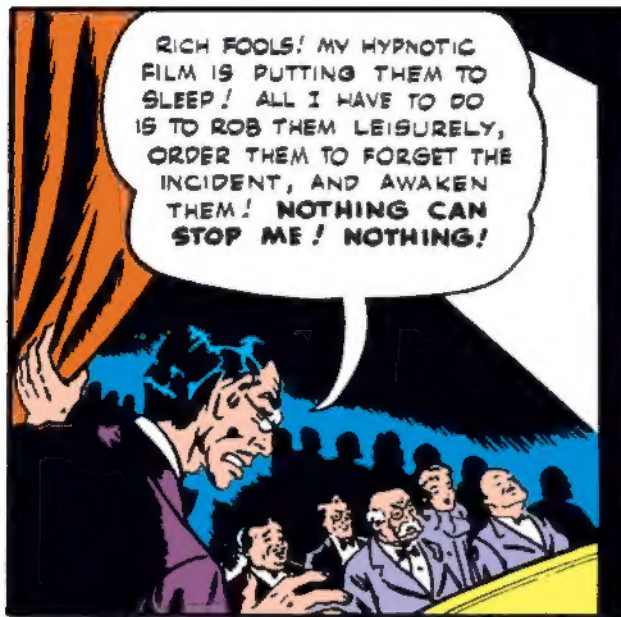
LADIES AND GENTLEMEN, MR. BRAMWELL B. BRAMWELL, THE FAMOUS MYSTERY WRITER, WILL NOW HONOR US WITH A PRIVATE SHOWING OF AN EXPERIMENTAL MOVIE HE HAS MADE! LIGHTS OUT, PLEASE!



YOU ARE SLEEPY... YOU ARE FALLING A-S-L-E-E-P...

GOODNESS I'M GETTING SO DROWSY!

I CAN HARDLY KEEP MY EYES OPEN!





American popular culture has produced few heroic figures as famous and enduring as that of the Batman. The dark, mysterious hero who debuted in 1939's DETECTIVE COMICS #27 as the lone "Bat-man" quickly grew into the legend of the Caped Crusader. After his landmark debut and origin story, the Dark Knight was given many seminal elements, including his partner in crime-fighting Robin, the Boy Wonder, and such adversaries as the Joker, Two-Face and the Scarecrow.

This fourth volume of BATMAN: THE GOLDEN AGE collects the Dark Knight Detective's adventures from BATMAN #12-15, DETECTIVE COMICS #66-74 and WORLD'S FINEST COMICS #7-9.

dccomics.com



SON OF ULTRON

"THIS FAN...
THIS MONSTER!"

